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THE ORIGINAL MAGAZINE DEDICATED TO NEBRASKA ATHLETICS

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OCTOBER 11, 2008 | VOLUME 28 | NO. 12

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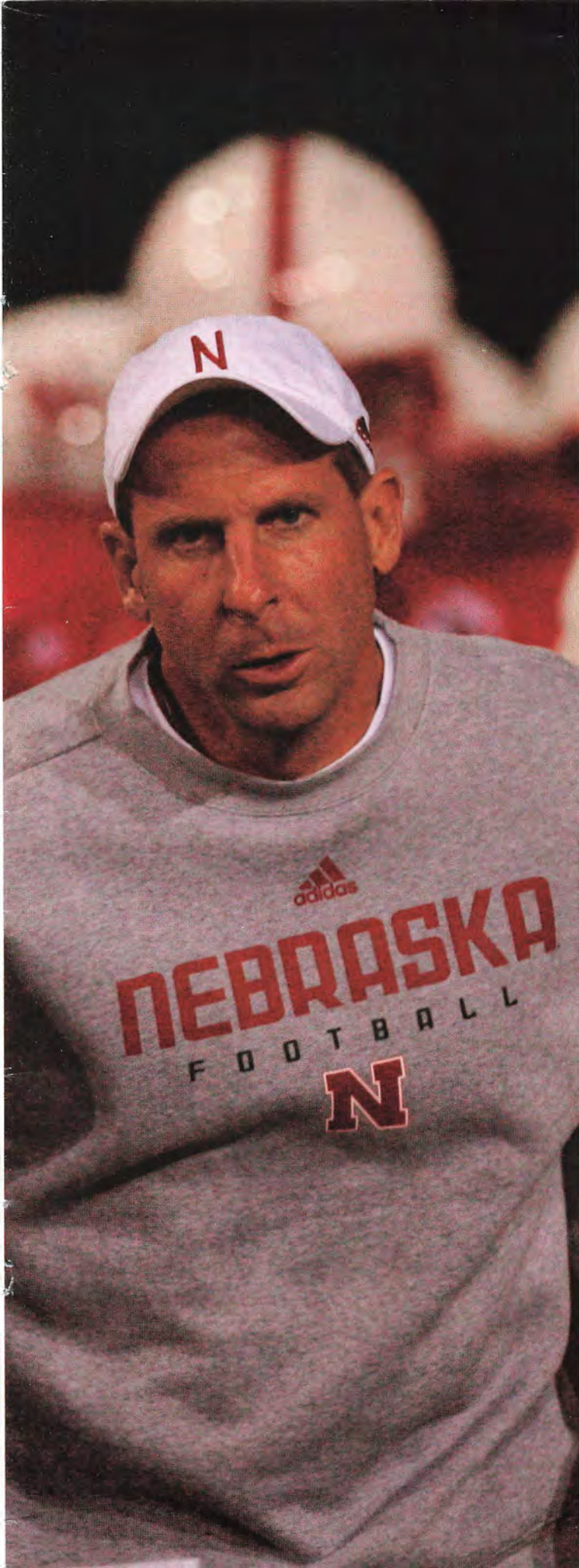
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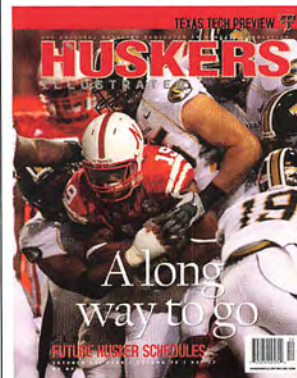
The Texas Tech recap/Iowa State preview will be mailed on Monday, Oct. 13.
Check for updates at huskersillustrated.com.

HUSKERS

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ON THE COVER

Quentin Castille drags a pack of Tigers in Nebraska's 52-17 loss to Missouri. The game proved the Huskers have a long ways to go to restore their tradition of dominance. Nebraska was dominated on every part of the field as Missouri earned their first win in Lincoln in 30 years. Photo by Scott Bruhn



A LONG WAY TO GO

Missouri loss serves reality check



THEY WEREN'T anywhere near Memorial Stadium, but Steve Pederson and Bill Callahan reared their heads Saturday.

Husker fans watched storied streaks and traditions topple like dominoes over the past four years under the direction of the former athletic director and football coach.

They can add a few more to their list.

I know Bo Pelini shouldered the entire blame for Saturday's lopsided 52-17 loss to the Tigers. Several players did as well.

But I'm officially giving Pederson and Callahan credit for Missouri's first win in Lincoln in 30 years and one of the worst home losses in the last 60 years.

What's one more? They already snapped the bowl streak and a number of others.

Am I being unreasonable? Am I beating a dead horse? Maybe, but I don't expect I'll get too many letters arguing.

You'll have to forgive me for going down this road, but you see, as the new editor of *Huskers Illustrated* I didn't have the chance to offer my opinion on the topic over the past few years.

This loss was a painful reminder of how much damage was done to the program under the previous regime and how much work it will take to rebuild it.

Unfortunately, the full extent of the damage may not be known for months or

even years.

Don't get me wrong, losing to the No. 3 team in the country isn't something to be ashamed of. But the style of the loss stirred up some haunting memories.

Nothing worked for Nebraska on Saturday. The offense didn't move while Missouri's offense moved at will.

Nebraska forced zero turnovers, zero sacks and rushed for seven yards in the first half.

I'm sure the masses thought this year would at least bring an end to the ugliness. But as we saw, there could be more to come.

It will take character and fortitude to weather this storm — character from the coaches and players and patience from the fans.

While I've said it and we've heard repeatedly that this wasn't going to be an overnight fix, Saturday brought the statement to life.

The statement was the size of the video board in the north end zone. A giant reminder of how much sweat and tears must be poured into the effort before things are turned around.

The score 52-17 means just one thing — Nebraska has a long way to go. **N**

Send us your comments or story ideas to huskersillustrated@gmail.com.

HUSKERS

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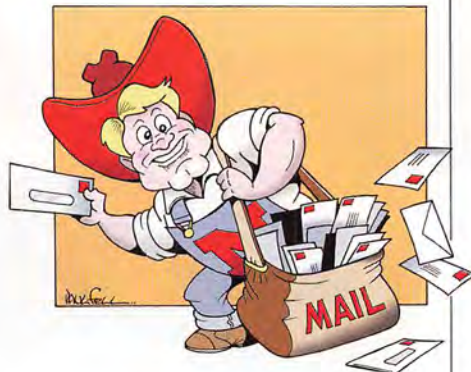
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Signed: Aaron Babcock, General Manager/Editor

MILITARY VIEW

As a retired military man and Veteran as well, I truly enjoyed the article on defensive end, Tyrone Fahie in your recent issue. He gives meaning to the words hard work & dedication and the fight for freedom for this great Nation. His path that finally led him to this Nebraska team may be untraditional, but

this Nebraska's "Rudy" is a standout by far.

Keep up the great work with all the interesting articles and tidbits about this great Husker Team. I continue to look forward to each and every issue! You can count on me being a long time subscriber.

Steve Lewis
Salt Lake City

Cornhead Corner

definition: CORNHEAD, corn-head - noun

1. a person with an extreme and often unusual enthusiasm or zeal for the University of Nebraska Cornhusker athletic program. Side effects may manifest in abnormal collections of Husker memorabilia, obsessive desires to attend Nebraska sporting events and paranoid delusions that every season should result in a national championship. This compulsive behavior can be contagious and is often a serious irritant for fans of the University of Missouri or Colorado.



BUCK POPE is a 1970 graduate from the teachers college and has taken his Husker pride to Chandler, Ariz. Pope has been teaching in Chandler for 38 years and isn't shy about his love of the Huskers.

"I have been teaching the students and the neighborhood about the Husker pride and spirit one lives with after seeing a game in Memorial Stadium," Pope said.

While Pope isn't able to attend games in Lincoln very often, he said he never misses a game when the Huskers roll through town for regular season or bowl games.

He said he became a Husker fan when Nebraska played Air Force in 1963 when he was working at Langley Air Force Base.

ARE YOU A CORNHEAD? Send us your story along with a photo to huskersillustrated@gmail.com and you may be featured in an upcoming issue of Huskers Illustrated.

2MinuteDrill

DREU YOUNG



Sophomore tight end **DREU YOUNG** orally committed to accept a football scholarship from the Colorado School of Mines in Golden, Colo., his senior year at Cozad, Neb., High School. But a few days before letters of intent could be signed, Nebraska called to offer him the opportunity to walk on. He couldn't turn down the offer. Playing for Nebraska had always been a dream.

A couple of days before the start of pre-season practice, he got a call from graduate assistant Jon Osterhout, who told him he was on the 105-man roster. Young had figured he would report with the rest of the walk-ons when university classes began.

He packed quickly and drove to Lincoln. "I was all excited," he said.

He was assigned to the Smith Residence Hall, room 502. He didn't have a roommate. In fact, there was no one else on the fifth floor of Smith Hall, not a single soul.

He had the floor to himself. "The first night was pretty cool," he said.

That quickly wore off, however. He didn't know anyone on the team, and the playbook was confusing, written in "some language I'd never seen," he said.

"I tried to read the playbook. I was so lost I kind of gave up on that."

He would return to his room after practice and call home. "I'd be like, 'Dad, I don't know if this is the right thing,'" he said. "My dad would be like, 'Hang in there.'"

One day **MIKE MCNEILL**, another freshman tight end, suggested Young come

down after practice and hang out with him and his roommate, **KEITH WILLIAMS**.

When Young knocked on the door of what he thought was their third-floor room, however, no one answered. As he approached, he had heard their voices.

"Then the talking just kind of died out," he said. "I just waited there, thinking, 'Are they going to answer?' They didn't answer. I knocked again. They didn't answer. So I went back up to my room. I was like, 'Dang, that was kind of harsh.' Now every time I tell McNeill about it, he'll deny it. But why would I make that up? I always give him crap."

For the better part of two weeks, Young wondered about his decision to walk on. "It was me and the TV in 502. That's it," he said. "It builds character, I guess."

2MinuteDrill

JOE GANZ



BASEBALL BACKGROUND

When the protection breaks down and he's forced out of the pocket, quarterback **JOE GANZ** is comfortable, "real comfortable," throwing on the move.

"I think it's from playing baseball," Ganz said. "Playing shortstop really helped me, throwing on the run and not being able to set your feet ... throwing from all different types of body positions, body styles."

VIDEO-GAME CONNECTION

Growing up in Tampa, Fla., senior cornerback **ARMANDO MURILLO** didn't know much about Nebraska football until the Cornhuskers began recruiting him. What little he did know was a result of his playing video games, specifically NCAA College Football.

He knew about **TOMMIE FRAZIER**, but not because Frazier was from Bradenton, Fla. Frazier was on the NCAA College Football roster for Nebraska.

"They had like Frazier and (**LAWRENCE**) **PHILLIPS** on it," said Murillo, who spent two seasons at Eastern Arizona Community College. "I didn't even know where Nebraska was, but I used to play with them. When I started getting recruited, 'Oh, Nebraska.' It kind of popped back into my head. But I didn't know too much except for Frazier and those guys."



SOCCER HELPS

Sophomore place-kicker **ALEX HENERY** (pictured) played soccer in high school. In fact, he could have gone to Creighton University and played soccer. He was that good.

His soccer background has helped him as a kicker. "It's huge because it's kind of the same thing," he said. "You're just hitting it on a different spot on the ball. It helped me adapt when it's a bad hold and he'll miss his spot, where he places it."

"I'll be able to adjust, where some people that haven't played, if it's not exactly right and their steps aren't there, it's going to mess up their swing."

As for being his kicking style, "I just kind of go out and do it," Henery said. "I don't know if I'm a soccer-style or just a regular-style. I don't know what the difference is."

SIDELINES



SPECIAL TEAMS

The Cornhuskers already have seen the value of special-teams play in dramatic ways this season, to their advantage as well as to their detriment. "All the coaches I've been around, and I've been around some good coaches, they all understand the importance of special teams, from the guys I was around in the pros to Coach (**FRANK**) **SOLICH**, Coach (Bob) Stoops, Coach (Les) Miles," said coach **BO PELINI**.

"Fortunately, I was exposed to the right things as far as understanding the importance there."

Pelini's emphasis on special teams is apparent, said sophomore **NILES PAUL**. "We actually practice special teams in practice way more than we did last year."

Assistant **JOHN PAPUCHIS** (pictured above) "says punts and kickoffs set the tempo of the game," Paul said.

ESPN CAMERAS

Nebraska's game against Missouri marked the first time ESPN televised a game from Memorial Stadium since the 2002 Husker season opener against Arizona State. It also marked just the second visit to Lincoln by the network since the 1992 season.

2MinuteDrill



A STARTER, REALLY

When the offense is spread, you're not likely to see No. 53 on the field.

Yes, **TYLER WORTMAN** is Nebraska's starting BUCK linebacker. But no, he didn't start the first three games. In fact, he played only one snap against New Mexico State.

Wortman's first career start as a Cornhusker came against Virginia Tech, which was the first team that didn't feature a spread offense. When the opponent plays a spread offense, Wortman is replaced in a "nickel" alignment by a defensive back.

Coach **BO PELINI** was asked about Wortman the week before the Virginia Tech game. "He's practiced a lot," Pelini said. "It's just a matter of what teams give us on game day. You have to be prepared for whatever they come out (in)."

"He's had plenty of practice time, so we know he's ready."

WILL linebacker **CODY GLENN** is replaced as well in the "dime" alignment, and there are no linebackers in the "dollar" alignment. It's a sign of the times.

GO BOSOX



Senior defensive end **ZACH POTTER** would like to see the Boston Red Sox in the World Series again. He's a Red Sox fan, following in his father's footsteps.

"I'm not die-hard, but I'm a big enough fan to where I can wear the gear," he said.

Um, he's a big enough fan that he has not just one but 12 Red Sox hats.



SIDELINES

NOT MANY CLOSE CALLS

The Nebraska-Texas Tech series hasn't seen too many close contests in the nine previous meetings.

The Huskers head to Lubbock, Texas, with a 7-2 record in the series, but have lost the last two meetings.

While the last meeting saw the Red Raiders escape Lincoln with a 34-31 victory, it snapped a streak of seven straight games decided by at least 10 points.

Huskers fans don't need to be reminded of a 70-10 loss in 2004, but prior to that NU won four games in the series by at least 23 points and had a 56-3 win as the nation's top-ranked team in 2000.

TOP 5 FOES

The Missouri game marked the third straight year Nebraska has played host to a top-five opponent in Memorial Stadium. The Huskers had never had three straight seasons with a top-five team visiting Lincoln.

The Huskers have played host to top-five squads in back-to-back campaigns three times before, most recently in 1986 and 1987.

FROSH UP-DATE

Freshman **JUSTIN ROGERS**, who wasn't cleared by the NCAA to enroll until the Tuesday after Labor Day, has been practicing at I-back but could also get a look at defensive back in the not-too-distant future, according to coach

BO PELINI.



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BIG 12 AWARDS

Senior wide receiver **NATE SWIFT** was named Big 12 special teams player of the week after returning a punt 88 yards for a touchdown against Virginia Tech. The award was the second for the Cornhuskers this season. Sophomore wide receiver **NILES PAUL** was named special teams player of the week following the San Jose State game.

Swift learned about his Big 12 award in a text message from his dad.

"I have no idea how he found it," Swift said. "Somebody must have told him because he's not one of those guys who sits on the Internet all day, either."

Paul's 85-yard kickoff return against San Jose State didn't make Nebraska's all-time top 10. Swift's punt return was the fourth longest in school history.

GOODBYE YANKEE STADIUM

Yankee Stadium is coming down, to be replaced by a \$1.3 billion building across the street. The historic ballpark in the Bronx was site of the Nebraska football team's first bowl victory. The Cornhuskers defeated Miami 36-34 in the ill-fated Gotham Bowl on Dec. 15, 1962. The crowd for the March of Dimes benefit game was estimated at 11,000, generously so, with only 6,166 paid. If there were 11,000 at the stadium that day, 10,000 must have left before the kickoff, Nebraska coach Bob Devaney would say years later. Either that or they were dressed as empty seats.

Yankee Stadium opened in 1923, the same year Nebraska's Memorial Stadium opened. It was, of course, the site of memorable college football games involving Notre Dame and Army as well as other non-baseball events.

BIG RETURNS

KICKOFF RETURNS

(THROUGH VIRGINIA TECH GAME)

Owen Frank (Kansas State, 1911)	105
Ron Clark (Kansas State, 1949)	100
Joe Walker (Louisiana Tech, 1998)	99
Tyrone Hughes (Kansas State, 1990)	99
Keith Jones (Kansas, 1985)	98
Johnny Rodgers (Texas A&M, 1971)	98
Cortney Grixby (Kansas State, 2007)	94
Mike Rozier (Kansas State, 1981)	93
Willie Ross (Gotham Bowl vs. Miami, 1962)	92
Pat Fischer (Penn State, 1958)	92
Bob Smith (Missouri, 1951)	92

PUNT RETURNS

(THROUGH VIRGINIA TECH GAME)

Bobby Newcombe (Missouri, 2000)	94
Johnny Rodgers (Oklahoma State, 1971)	92
DeJuan Groce (Missouri, 2002)	89
Nate Swift (Virginia Tech, 2008)	88
Dave Butterfield (TCU, 1976)	87
Pat Fischer (Oklahoma State, 1960)	84
DeJuan Groce (Troy State, 2002)	83
Irving Fryar (Hawaii, 1982)	82
Ron Clark (Penn State, 1949)	82
Don Bloom (Kansas State, 1948)	82



FUTURE SCHEDULES

Though there's no way of knowing for sure, Nebraska's future non-conference schedules are likely to be extremely challenging. The Cornhuskers recently added home-and-home series with Miami and Fresno State to future schedules, which already include series with Washington, UCLA, Tennessee and Southern Mississippi.

The Cornhuskers will play Miami in 2014 and 2015 Fresno State in 2011, 2014 and 2016, with the 2014 game at Fresno State. The 2014 game against Miami is set for Memorial Stadium. Nebraska will travel to Miami in 2015.

Nebraska and Wyoming reportedly are considering a series of games as well, including the possibility of at least one being played in Denver.

2009

9/5	Florida Atlantic
9/12	Arkansas State
9/19	at Virginia Tech
9/26	Louisiana-Lafayette
10/3	at Missouri
10/17	Texas Tech
10/24	Iowa State
10/31	at Baylor
11/7	Oklahoma
11/14	at Kansas
11/21	Kansas State
11/27	at Colorado

2010

9/4	Western Kentucky
9/11	Idaho
9/18	at Washington
9/25	South Dakota State
10/2	at Kansas State
10/16	Texas
10/23	at Oklahoma State
10/30	Missouri
11/6	at Iowa State
11/13	Kansas
11/20	at Texas A&M
11/26	Colorado

2011

9/10	Fresno State
9/17	Washington
10/8	Kansas State
10/15	at Texas
10/22	Oklahoma State
10/29	at Missouri
11/5	Iowa State
11/12	at Kansas
11/19	Texas A&M
11/25	Colorado

2012

9/1	Southern Miss
9/8	at UCLA
9/29	Missouri
10/13	at Texas Tech
10/20	at Iowa State
10/27	Baylor
11/3	at Oklahoma
11/10	Kansas
11/17	at Kansas State
11/23	Colorado

2013

9/7	at Southern Miss
9/14	UCLA
10/5	at Missouri
10/12	Texas Tech
10/19	Iowa State
10/26	at Baylor
11/2	Oklahoma
11/9	at Kansas
11/16	Kansas State
11/29	at Colorado

2014

9/13	at Fresno State
10/4	at Kansas State
10/11	Texas
10/18	at Oklahoma State
10/25	Missouri
11/1	at Iowa State
11/8	Kansas
11/15	at Texas A&M
11/28	Colorado

2015

9/5	Southern Miss
10/3	Kansas State
10/17	at Texas
10/24	Oklahoma State
10/31	at Missouri
11/7	Iowa State
11/14	at Kansas
11/21	Texas A&M
11/27	at Colorado

2016

TBA	Fresno State
9/10	Tennessee

2017

9/9	at Tennessee
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2MinuteDrill



N

Mike Huff: Ralston, NE



The school colors seem to be changing. Black has been worked in, according to Mike Huff, "blue and black or red and black, depending on if they're (the Rams) home or away," he said. "But when I played, it was definitely blue and red."

Blue as in powder blue, North Carolina Tarheels blue. "People say our school colors are the ugliest ones they've seen, that blue and red kind of clash," Huff said.

Huff takes pride in Ralston High School, just as he takes pride in being from an Omaha suburb that hasn't been annexed, as well as in being the Cornhuskers' first scholarship football recruit from Ralston since Brad Johnson in 1982.

"It's kind of cool because everybody knows who I am," said Huff. "It's a close-knit community but at the same time, you have your own privacy."

Huff, who has degree in hand and is in his third season as a starter, had the best of both worlds growing up in Ralston. Because of its proximity to Omaha, there was always something to do. "It's not like growing up in a small town like Bennington," he said. "Those other places you don't have anything surrounding you except cornfields."

Ralston has a downtown area and promotes itself as "Independence City, USA," with an annual Fourth of July celebration that includes a parade. Attending the parade is "something I've done since I was born," Huff said.

"Independence City, USA" is a patriotic designation. But it also can apply to Ralston's situation "because of all the annexations," said Huff. Other communities, most recently Elkhorn, have lost their identity after being annexed by Omaha.

Huff lives near the boundary, where "you're Omaha or you're Ralston," he said.

Make no mistake, he's Ralston. **N**

MIKE HUFF

6-4, 300, Senior, Offensive Guard

Hometown: Ralston, Neb.

County: Douglas

Population: 6,314 (2000 census)

Distance from Lincoln: 55 miles

Nebraska football letterman:

Mike Huff, OG (2005-present)

Brad Johnson, OT (1985-86)

William Buchanan, G (1945)

Hometown pride: "I feel a little bit of identity coming from Ralston. A lot of guys will just say they're from Omaha. But I like saying I'm from Ralston."



SIDELINES

facebook

LOOKING FOR FRIENDS

We're not too proud to admit we want some new friends - not that there's anything wrong with our old ones.

Whether you're a fan of the new facebook or the old facebook, any Husker fan can join the official *Huskers Illustrated Magazine* group on facebook.

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Husker fans can now download the weekly show to their MP3 player and take it with them.

The show, hosted by Chris Schmidt features notable guests from around the country and provides recruiting updates and pre-game analysis. The show can also be heard for free at HuskersIllustrated.com.



THE BIG 12 BEAT

BY CURT MCKEEVER

No more "ugly wins" for Texas

Texas entered the conference portion of the season as one of five unbeaten teams in the Big 12 and sat No. 3 among the six that were ranked in the top 25. No one, though, not even top-ranked Oklahoma, looked any more impressive than the Longhorns.

While helping his team blast three opponents by 52-10 scores (and win the other game by 29 points) junior quarterback Colt McCoy completed 80 percent of his throws for 14 touchdowns and just one interception to rank No. 2 nationally in passing efficiency.

McCoy's completion percentage was No. 1 nationally, and he also was his team's leading rusher.

What's more, the Longhorns posted seven sacks in each of their last two non-conference games to become co-leaders nationally with Air Force and Tulane. The 14 sacks in those contests were the most in successive games since Mack Brown took over 11 years ago.

"Last year, we had ugly wins, if that is possible," Brown said after Texas pasted its old Southwest Conference rival Arkansas. "We walked in here and said they were wins, but at the same time we knew we weren't dominating some teams that we could've.

"This team right now has done exactly what they've been asked. We've played with energy each week, we've played hard each week, and we've seemed to improve each week.

"Now, the stage steps up and the teams we start playing will be better than the first four we've played."

THE BIG 12 HAD four teams – Oklahoma, Missouri, Texas and Texas Tech – among the top eight in the USA Today coaches poll entering league play. Kansas and Oklahoma State also were in the top 25.

The Big 12 has had six teams in the poll on numerous occasions. But never has it been looked upon so favorably. Under the point system used to determine teams' places in the

poll (25 for being first, 24 for second ...), the position of the ranked teams would give the Big 12 101 points. The previous high number was 84 on Sept. 7, 2003.

Yeah, it's getting even more competitive.

"We have to really work hard to put our players in position to have success on Saturdays," said Oklahoma State coach Mike Gundy after the Cowboys were ranked for the first time in his four seasons.

The Big 12 finished with a 38-10 record in non-league games. That winning percentage of .792 trails only the .861 mark (31-5) of 2005.

The most impressive win was **OKLAHOMA's** 35-10 conquering of a TCU team that entered the game with the nation's top-ranked defense. The Sooners won going away, despite being held to 25 yards rushing.

TEXAS A&M takes honors for the worst loss, an 18-14 home setback to Sun Belt Conference member Arkansas State.

And **BAYLOR** gets the nod as biggest surprise. Since switching to true freshman quarterback Robert Griffin after their opener, the Bears went 2-1, with the loss being a three-pointer at unbeaten Connecticut.

TEXAS TECH went into its league opener at **KANSAS STATE** with its first regular-season bye week since 2004. No doubt, the Red Raiders were grateful for the rest, but also hopeful that they didn't repeat history. The 2004 team, after getting an extra week to prepare for **TEXAS** following a 70-10 win against **NEBRASKA**, got beat by the Longhorns 51-21.

Tech, known for its wide-open passing offense, has been surprisingly effective on defense. Entering league play, the Red Raiders were No. 3 nationally in third-down defense, having allowed just 12 of 54 conversions.

How badly did **MISSOURI** miss free safety William Moore in the two games he sat out because of a sprained foot before league

play began? They entered it ranked 112th nationally and last in the Big 12 in defending the pass.

OKLAHOMA STATE's 55-24 win against Troy marked the third straight game the Cowboys had scored 50. The last time that happened was during Barry Sanders' Heisman Trophy season of 1988. This OSU team can run it pretty well, too. After the Troy game, OSU led the nation in rushing.

IOWA STATE entered conference play needing to get a handle on its emotion. Through four games, the Cyclones had drawn 14 personal fouls, which accounted for 180 of their 280 penalty yardage.

COLORADO went into league play having lost six offensive linemen since the start of fall camp. The week of the Florida State game starting guard Max Tuoti-Mariner tore an ACL, and in that contest tackle Ryan Miller broke his leg. Miller had played every snap of the season before getting injured.

In **KANSAS STATE's** final Big 12 tuneup, Ron Prince inserted sophomore wide receiver Lamark Brown as the running back and Brown produced a 137-yard effort against Louisiana-Lafayette. No. 3 quarterback Tysyn Hartman also played safety.

Early the next morning, Wildcats' strong safety Gary Chandler, the 2007 Big 12 Defensive Newcomer of the year, was arrested for driving with a canceled or suspended license, obstructing the legal process and being a habitual violator. Prince later suspended him from the team.

Finally, Jorvorskie Lane reappeared in the **TEXAS A&M** backfield to help the Aggies fend off Army. Lane, reportedly weighed in the 280s after showing up to camp at 307 pounds, got his heaviest work load while gaining 34 yards on six straight game-ending carries. In A&M's first three games, he had a combined seven rushing attempts.



Lydon Murtha

6-7, 315, Senior, Offensive Tackle, Hutchinson, Minn.

The weight will come off eventually, when Lydon Murtha's playing career is finished. If things work out, that will be a while from now.

But he will drop the pounds someday. "There's really nothing more that I want to do than lose weight, get down to 225 maybe, or 230, just because being a big guy, it's hard on your body," he said. "It really doesn't matter how fit you are or what your body fat is, being 300 pounds is hard on your body."

"It's hard on your heart. It's hard on your joints and your cardiovascular system. Just the day I can shed it all off and walk around, and not be

in a Hoveround when I'm 50, is what I'm looking forward to the most."

Because of his height and frame, he is often described as lean.

"I guess you could say I'm lean, but one person I'd really like to give credit to is Matt Slauson because the kid has lost 40 pounds," said Murtha.

Slauson, one of his best friends, plays right guard.

"Playing next to a kid that's just as fit and lean, we complement each other really well," Murtha said. "That's what we go for."

Hi: Jonathan Ogden or Matt Light?

MURTHA: Matt Light, I like his style of play. He's a quick guy and he's a good football player. Overall, he's a good tackle, for sure.

Hi: If a movie were made about your life, who would you pick to be your character?

MURTHA: Probably Chris Farley, he was the funniest guy around.

Hi: What's your most embarrassing moment on a football field?

MURTHA: The first start of my collegiate career; I'm sure everyone knows this in Husker Nation, the first play of the game against Oklahoma, sack. Definitely embarrassing, first start, first play, gave up a sack in college ball.

Hi: If you were a contestant on Star Search, what would your talent be?

MURTHA: I'm a really good dancer.

Hi: Who's the funniest player on the team?

MURTHA: I'd probably say **KEITH WILLIAMS**, just because he's always lipping off to different people, making jokes about stupid stuff. He's a funny kid, for sure, him and D.J. Jones. Actually, I'd say Mike Smith, too. He's always cracking jokes.

Hi: What kind of music will you not listen to?

MURTHA: Not listen to? Country, I can't do country. I try. I've been forced. Matt Slauson's forced me, and I just can't do it. I can't do it. If someone puts it in the CD player, I can't do it. I take it out. I don't have a country CD. I don't have a country song on my iPod. It just doesn't work for me.

Hi: What's the strangest thing you've ever eaten?

MURTHA: Rocky Mountain oysters, do you know what those are? They taste good.

Hi: If you had unlimited resources to buy a car, what would you buy?

MURTHA: Oh man, you know everyone thinks that since I'm a big guy, I like trucks and I should own a truck. But I don't really like trucks. The only reason I drive a truck right now is because it's my wife's. But if I had to buy any car . . . I'm not really a huge car guy, but I'll tell you, the car I drive right now is an '82 Oldsmobile Cutless Sierra that's spray-painted black by me personally. It looks like a derby car and it's got pink wheels. It's probably the coolest car in town. I actually sprayed over it black, but you can still see the pink. The car has 300,000 miles on it so I can't let it go. I've got the car of my dreams right there.

Hi: Other than pro football, what would your ideal job be?

MURTHA: WWE, baby, three options, NFL, the WWE or a stay-at-home dad . . . just kidding. Any job that'll help me support my family. I want to own my own business someday.

Hi: If you were a pro wrestler, what would your name be and what would your finishing move be?

MURTHA: Gosh, I've got this scorpion move because I'm a Scorpio and I've got this scorpion (tattoo) on my arm. I call it the "stinger." Big Block Murth.



Megan Rogers

Football runs in Rogers' blood

She says football has been part of her life since she can remember.

So it makes perfect sense that Megan Rogers has made a career out of it.

Rogers on April 1 took over as the Nebraska football team's coordinator of on-campus recruiting. She is responsible for organizing and managing all aspects of the day-to-day operations of the recruiting department, including the organization of all official and unofficial recruiting visits.

She came to Nebraska from Colorado, where she spent the 2007 season as the Buffaloes' director of football administration.

"I have a dad who played college football, and two older brothers who played in high school and college as well," Rogers said. "So I kind of just grew up going to games and watching games and loving the games. It was

just kind of a comfortable place for me."

Her father, Frank Rogers, was a split end and kicker for Colorado from 1962-65, playing for the late Eddie Crowder. One of her brothers played at Princeton.

Megan Rogers came to Nebraska in large part because of her relationship with Husker assistant coaches Shawn Watson and Ted Gilmore. Watson was an assistant at CU from 1999-2005, and Gilmore from 2003-04.

"They knew what my goals were within the profession," Rogers said. "And once a position opened up at Nebraska, I was lucky they thought of me and talked to me about the position, and it ended up working out."

Rogers was just the second woman at Colorado to hold the title of director of football administration. She organized all



aspects of team travel, served as the liaison with the players' parents and support groups, aided the coordination of CU's football camps and coordinated travel for head coach Dan Hawkins and the team's coordinators. She spent a total of four seasons in the CU athletic department.

Eventually, Rogers said, she would like to become a director of football operations for a program, and perhaps an athletic director someday.

She appreciates the fan support and attention Nebraska's program receives.

"It's great to be part of a program that means so much to the community," she said. "They show it really every day of the year, but especially on Saturdays."

Catching up with BY MIKE BABCOCK

Pat Engelbert

"Holy cow, it went so fast."

The lessons he learned during his time at Nebraska have served Pat Engelbert well.

"One of the things Coach (Tom) Osborne continually preached was perseverance, fight your way through it. It's a marathon. It's not a sprint," said Engelbert, an Academic All-American and co-captain in 1991.

"Loyalty and tradition were big things to him, too. I've always thought those were the things I took away, continuing to work hard through the tough times to prepare yourself for the good times, being loyal to your friends and your teammates. I think it kind of carries over to the work force as well."

Those who didn't have or develop those qualities often had a difficult time, particularly early on, when they were playing on the scout team "because you're getting the tar beat out of you and there are no games,"

Engelbert said. "There just doesn't seem to be a purpose.

"Just the style of football Nebraska played, real physical, you needed to have that mentality."

As with most players at the time, Engelbert played on the freshman team and then redshirted before getting an opportunity to contribute. "I don't think it really hit home until you were a junior and then, gosh, by your senior year, you think, 'Where did the time go?' " he said. "It went from 'Holy smokes,

PAT ENGELBERT

LETTERS: 1989-91

POSITION: Middle Guard

CURRENT: Water resources engineer, HDR, Omaha office

WIFE: Jill

CHILDREN: Anna (12), Mary (10), Hank (7)

am I ever going to get out of here,' to 'Holy cow, it went so fast.' "



Huskers find safeties in numbers

BY RICK SHAW

Perhaps no other position on the defensive side of the ball demands more versatility than the safety. A good safety must not only have the necessary quickness and agility to lock up in pass coverage with lightning-fast receivers but they also need to be physical and aggressive enough to come up and tackle 210-pound running backs.

Due to a unique mix of skills required to play the position, effective safeties aren't always easy to find. However, it may be the position that Nebraska is in the best shape from a recruiting perspective heading into the month of October. The Cornhuskers are either at or near the top of the leader board with at least five heavily sought safety prospects and will likely seek to sign two of them to letters of intent in February.

DAYTAWION LOWE is one of the top high school safety prospects in the land. The 6-0, 175-pound playmaker out of Midwest City (Okla.) Carl Albert High School, has racked up 240 tackles, seven sacks and four interceptions over the past two seasons. Not surprisingly, he also boasts scholarship offers from schools across the country, including Colorado, Missouri, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Oklahoma State, Pittsburgh and Stanford.

Though Lowe was thought to be a heavy lean to Oklahoma State earlier this fall, a Sept. 26 official visit to Nebraska seemingly brought the Huskers up even with the Cowboys for his commitment.

"The fans at Nebraska are very enthusiastic," Lowe said. "They were better and louder than anything I've ever been around. The fans were off the charts."

"I can't say any one team is in the lead now but Nebraska and Oklahoma State are up there. Both of those schools have a lot of the same

qualities. That's what is going to make my decision so hard. I like the coaches, the players, the people and the atmosphere at both of them."

Rated the No. 16 safety prospect in the country (four-stars) by Rivals.com, Lowe said that he may be ready to make his college decision within the next two or three weeks.

Denver (Colo.) Mullen standout **ALEX LOGAN** also took a late September trip to Lincoln to watch the Huskers battle Virginia Tech. Much like Lowe, the 6-2, 195-pounder came away very impressed with the experience.

"I thought the whole visit was great," Logan said. "I'd give it a '10' (on a 1-10 scale). Although I wish they would have won, I thought they played hard and fought it out to the end."

Logan, rated the nation's No. 30 safety prospect by Rivals, said the Huskers are among six finalists for his college pledge, joining Arizona State, Cal, Colorado, Oregon and Washington. The younger brother of

"THE FANS

at Nebraska are very enthusiastic. They were better and louder than anything I've ever been around. The fans are off the charts."

**SAFETY RECRUIT
DAYTAWION LOWE**



DAYTAWION LOWE

Washington freshman receiver Alvin Logan, Alex accumulated 109 tackles and one interception as a junior in 2007.

"My brother told me not to get too caught up in the excitement after a visit," Logan said. "He told me to take things slow and make sure I make the right decision. That's what I plan to do. I'll probably make my choice in December, after I'm done with all of my trips."

Another top prospect who intends to take all of his allotted five visits before making a final decision is Lawndale (Calif.) Leuzinger athlete **DIJON WASHINGTON**. Ranked as the nation's No. 14 safety prospect by Rivals (four-stars), the 6-0, 175-pound standout said that the Huskers are one of the teams at the top of his list.

"I know I'll visit both Nebraska and Oregon State," Washington said. "I'm not sure about the last three visits. I don't really have a favorite

right now. Each school has positives about them that make them attractive."

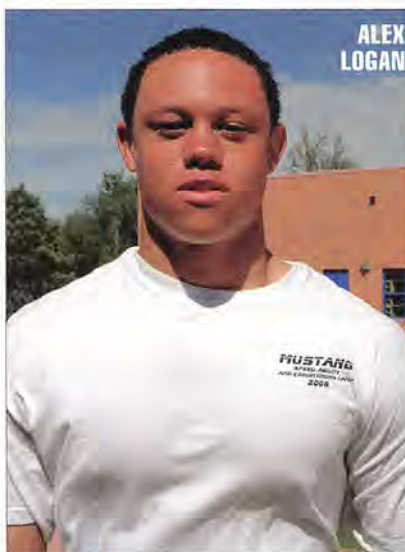
"With Nebraska, it's the defense pretty much. They have a great defense with coach (Bo) Pelini back and they're heading down the right path. I really think they are going to do well this season."

Washington was a first-team all-league performer as a junior, compiling 50 tackles, one sack and two interceptions.

LESTER WHITE, a 6-2, 205-pound safety out of J.W. North High in Riverside is another top prospect out of California with the Huskers on his mind. Though he also holds offers from Arizona State, Fresno State, Oregon State, Washington State and others, he admitted that Nebraska is currently the leader for his pledge.

"Nebraska has the edge because their coach, Bo Pelini, was a defensive coordinator who had great defenses at LSU," White said. "I also like the 'Blackshirt' tradition in Lincoln. I find that pretty exciting."

With excellent size and speed (4.48-second 40-yard dash), White has the skills to be a difference-maker at the strong safety position. Though some schools are also recruiting him for his skills as a running back, the California defender (rated the nation's No. 34 safety prospect by Rivals) said he'll likely line up on the defensive side of the ball in college.



JAIROS JONES, one of the top safety prospects in Florida also has the Huskers on his current shortlist. The 6-2, 210-pound standout out of Wharton High in Tampa said he also likes what the Nebraska coaching staff is doing with the defense in Lincoln.

"My favorites, in order, would be LSU, Nebraska, Michigan State, Illinois and Iowa," Jones said. "They've all offered."

"Back in the day the Nebraska defense was really, really good. If I go there, hopefully I can get them back to where they used to be. They have a great defensive coach in Bo Pelini. I think he can get them there."

Jones is rated the nation's No. 63 athlete by Rivals.com.

Corona (Calif.) Centennial athlete **TAYLOR MARTINEZ** (6-0, 176 pounds), who has already delivered his pledge to the 'Big Red' coaches, may start his football-playing days in Lincoln at the safety spot. However, the standout high school quarterback with 4.47-second speed in the 40-yard dash and a 38-inch vertical leap could also find himself filling a role for the Husker offense.

It's not easy to find players with all of the necessary traits to be effective safeties at the college level. The Nebraska coaches, however, have done an admirable job during the recruiting process at getting their foot in the door with a few. **N**

COMMITTED



GETTING GOOSE BUMPS

Omaha (Neb.) Gross Catholic fullback **C.J. ZIMMERER** says that no matter how many Nebraska games he attends, he still gets "goose bumps every time."

Zimmerer isn't your average fan. He's the No. 5 rated prospect regardless of position in the state of Nebraska for the 2009 class and the nation's No. 20th rated fullback prospect. He's also been committed to Nebraska since mid-May.

It doesn't change the excitement level, which he tries to keep in check as he pushes through a very big senior season.

"It's really hard not to be happy about playing for Nebraska," Zimmerer said. "People bring it up all the time saying, 'You're going to be playing for Nebraska some day,' and I just say 'yeah, but I still play for Gross right now.' It's still a long ways away and I'm just trying not to get ahead of myself."

Having 100-yard rushing games has been common this season. In one game against Platteview, he had 211 yards on 13 carries with four touchdowns. On defense, he had eight tackles and an interception.

He feels the difference from last year, but gives a lot of credit to his offensive line and teammates.

"I definitely feel faster, and stronger from lifting all summer," he said. "We're just meshing really well up front. The holes seem to open there. The line is playing well and I'm really just following them."

by John Talman, Recruiting Publisher

HuskersIllustrated.com

Western visitors impressed

by Sean Stevens

During the Bill Callahan years, Nebraska focused much of their recruiting attention on the western US, primarily California and Arizona. While Bo Pelini's staff has placed a strong emphasis on Texas, the West hasn't been forgotten. Highly-ranked official visitors from Arizona, California and Nevada have all been in Lincoln this fall.

Las Vegas, Nev., defensive end **KEENAN GRAHAM** (6-3/220/4-stars) was in town for the Virginia Tech game.

"I was really impressed with it. I've never been in an environment like this one," Graham said. "It's definitely something to remember. The fans were great, the atmosphere was great, and the team fought back and almost won it in the end. It was a great game – a lot of fun."

Graham plays linebacker for his high school, however the Huskers are looking at a different position for him.

"(Pelini) told me that they're short on the defensive line and they needed

some guys to come since they're graduating a lot of guys," Graham said. "They want me at defensive end. They haven't brought up linebacker once."

Graham has visited USC unofficially and will take official trips to Colorado and Wisconsin in October. Other suitors to extend an offer include Michigan, Oregon, UCLA and Virginia Tech.



SIDELINES

KERR HIGH ON NEBRASKA

Three-star tight end **J.T. KERR** (6-4/230) of San Diego, Calif. visited Lincoln officially during the New Mexico State game after having also seen the program unofficially late in the summer.

"We had a great time talking to coach (Bo) Pelini, coach (Shawn) Watson and coach (Ron) Brown. My dad loves it out here," said Kerr.

Kerr nearly pulled the trigger on a commitment during his trip.

"Yes, I did - many times. I could see myself fitting in really well here," he said. "I pretty much enjoyed everything, but I didn't want to commit in the heat of the moment."

KERR HIGH ON NEBRASKA

Defensive tackle **COREY ADAMS** (6-3/277/4-stars) of Scottsdale, Ariz., is one of the highest-ranked players to visit Lincoln this fall. The No. 97-ranked player nationally at all positions, Adams has over 20 scholarship offers.

In mid-September, Adams cut his list to Arizona State, USC and Ohio State. Shortly thereafter, he added Nebraska and scheduled an official visit for the Virginia Tech game.

Although Adams lives just minutes from the Arizona State campus, he still took an official visit to get the full feel of life as a Sun Devil.

"They're recruiting me to play for them hard, and it means a lot, but I also look at all the schools like that," he said. "Every one of these options is a big time opportunity."

2009 Nebraska Commitment List

Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Hometown (High School)
Nick Ash	OL	6-5	261	Keller, Texas (Keller)
Shawn Bodtmann	OLB	6-0	205	Scranton, Pa. (West Scranton)
DeAndre Byrd	CB	5-10	170	Tallahassee, Fla. (Lincoln)
Jess Coffey	OL	6-7	270	Denton, Texas (Guyer)
Emerson Evans	DE	6-1	230	Houston, Texas (Alief Taylor)
Cody Green	QB	6-4	220	Dayton, Texas (Dayton)
Taylor Martinez	ATH	6-0	176	Corona, Calif. (Centennial)
Cole Pensick	DL	6-2	250	Lincoln, Neb. (Northeast)
Thaddeus Randle	DL	6-1	255	Galena Park, Texas (North Shore)
Dontrayevous Robinson	RB	6-1	215	Euless, Texas (Trinity)
Brent Qvale	OL	6-7	300	Williston, N.D. (Williston)
C.J. Zimmerer	FB	6-0	213	Omaha, Neb. (Omaha Gross)

QUARTERBACK JOE GANZ
IS HIT DURING NEBRASKA'S
52-17 LOSS TO MISSOURI.



MISSOURI 52
NEBRASKA 17

No matching Mizzou

With Nebraska facing one of the most potent offenses in the country, everyone knew the Cornhuskers

had little margin for error against Missouri.

To have a chance at pulling off an upset, Nebraska needed its best defensive performance of the season. It also needed quarterback Joe Ganz and the offense to sustain drives to keep the Tigers' offense off the field, while matching their Missouri counterparts score for score.

But late in the first quarter of the 52-17 loss at Memorial Stadium, Nebraska's offense was the first to blink.

"It's tough against a team that runs the no-huddle and scores like they do," Nebraska wide receiver Nate Swift said. "They're a great team, a great offense and (they) have a great thing going over there. You have to tip your hat to them tonight."

Trailing 14-7, the Huskers drove to the Missouri 26-yard line. Following a timeout, Ganz was sacked on back-to-back plays for losses of 7 and 8 yards, respectively, knocking Nebraska out of field-goal range and forcing a punt.

From there, things quickly got away from the Huskers.

Missouri went ahead 17-7 on Jeff Wolfert's 48-yard field goal, forced another Nebraska punt and drove 75 yards on 10 plays to go ahead 24-7 on Jimmy Jackson's 1-yard run. Three offensive snaps later, linebacker Brock Christopher intercepted a Ganz pass and returned it 34 yards for a



PHOTO BY SCOTT BRUHN

Nebraska netted just 79 rushing yards, including 46 yards on 14 carries from Marlon Lucky.

TD and a 31-7 advantage with 2:59 left in the first half.

"That pick for a touchdown was kind of a turning point," Ganz said. "I just feel like I let the other guys down, and it's hard."

Key penalties and the lack of a consistent running game also hampered Nebraska's offense in its quest to try and hang with Missouri, which scored on seven

of its first eight possessions. The Huskers rushed for just 7 yards in the first half.

However, Ganz made no excuses.

"If we can't run it, we should be able to throw it," Ganz said. "We just didn't have enough today. We just didn't do enough offensively. We left too many points out there on the field." **N**

— by Terry Douglass

PHOTOS BY SCOTT BRUHN



Former Husker baseball players (left to right) Darin Erstad, Alex Gordon and Joba Chamberlain join baseball coach Mike Anderson on the field.



Armando Murillo tries to break up a pass in the first half.



Phillip Dillard chases down Derrick Washington in the second half.

REPORT CARD

RUSHING:

F

Needing a solid rushing performance to control the clock and keep Missouri's potent offensive attack off the field, Nebraska fell flat. The Huskers finished with 79 net rushing yards, but gained just 7 yards in the first half.

PASSING:

B-

Joe Ganz passed for 290 yards and two TDs to serve as perhaps Nebraska's lone highlight. However, he also threw a pick-six and took a pair of key sacks early, knocking the Huskers out of field-goal range.

RUSHING DEFENSE:

F

Nebraska's only chance to slow down Missouri's offense was to make the Tigers one-dimensional. Instead, Mizzou rushed for 201 yards with running back Derrick Washington averaging 9.9 yards per carry on 14 attempts.

PASSING DEFENSE:

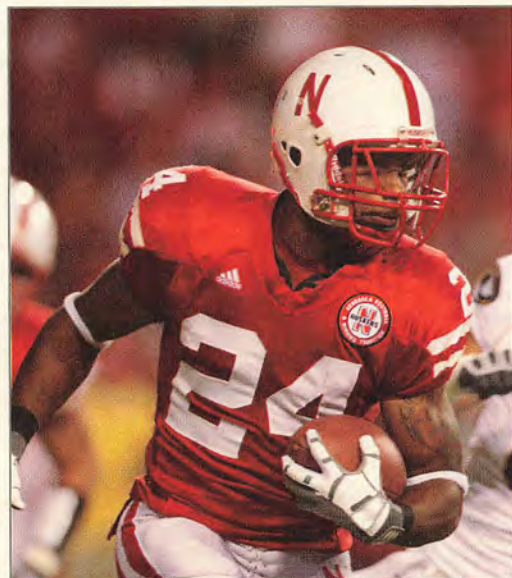
D

Missouri's Chase Daniel was a razor-sharp 18-of-23 passing for 253 yards and three TDs, but was actually held 100 yards below his season average coming in. The Huskers failed to sack the Tigers' QB for a second consecutive year.

KICKING/SPECIAL TEAMS:

C

While Dan Titchener's 3-yard punt had this grade headed toward failure, Nebraska's ability to keep Missouri returns specialist Jeremy Maclin in check (56 kickoff return yards) and Niles Paul's three kickoff returns for 88 yards were pluses.



Niles Paul returns a punt in the second half.

PHOTO BY SCOTT BRUHN

PHOTO BY SCOTT BRUHN



HEISMAN WINNERS IN LINCOLN

Though he hasn't won the Heisman Trophy yet, Missouri quarterback Chase Daniel is among the top candidates. Six Heisman Trophy winners have played in Memorial Stadium in the year they won the award (not counting Nebraska's three).

He certainly didn't hurt his chances against the Cornhuskers, completing 18-of-23 passes for 253 yards and three touchdowns, with no interceptions.

If recent history is any indication, Daniel should be in line to win the award. Heisman winners have played at Memorial Stadium in 1978, 1988 and 1998.

JAY BERWANGER, Chicago University, Sept. 28, 1935 – Nebraska, 28-7

Berwanger scored the Maroons' touchdown, but the Cornhuskers' Lloyd Cardwell was more impressive that afternoon.

ERNIE DAVIS, Syracuse, Oct. 14, 1961 – Syracuse, 28-6

Davis rushed for 120 yards.

BILLY SIMS, Oklahoma, Nov. 11, 1978 – Nebraska 17-14

Sims rushed for 153 yards for the No. 1-ranked Sooners, but lost a fumble at the Nebraska 3-yard line with 3:27 remaining.

BARRY SANDERS, Oklahoma State, Oct. 15, 1988 – Nebraska 63-42

Sanders carried 35 times for 189 yards and four touchdowns as the Cowboys rallied

from a 42-0 deficit less than 4 minutes into the second quarter. But Nebraska's Ken Clark had better statistics, rushing for 256 yards and three touchdowns on 27 carries.

RASHAAN SALAAM, Colorado, Oct. 29, 1994 – Nebraska 24-7

Salaam carried 22 times for 134 yards for the No. 2-ranked Buffaloes.

RICKY WILLIAMS, Texas, Oct. 31, 1998 – Texas 20-16

Williams fell well short of his average with 150 rushing yards, but the Longhorns snapped Nebraska's 47-game home-winning streak.

SO HE SAID ...

Missouri quarterback **CHASE DANIEL** wasn't exactly gracious in victory. "They came out hitting," he said. "Nebraska was definitely one of the dirtiest teams I've played. It's football, so you've got to be ready for it. You've got to be ready for hits like that."

WHEN THE HEISMAN GOES THROUGH LINCOLN

1. **JAY BERWANGER**, Chicago University, Sept. 28, 1935.....Nebraska, 28-7
2. **ERNIE DAVIS**, Syracuse, Oct. 14, 1961.....Syracuse, 28-6
3. **BILLY SIMS**, Oklahoma, Nov. 11, 1978.....Nebraska, 17-14
4. **BARRY SANDERS**, Oklahoma State, Oct. 15, 1988.....Nebraska, 63-42
5. **RASHAAN SALAAM**, Colorado, Oct. 29, 1994.....Nebraska, 24-7
6. **RICKY WILLIAMS**, Texas, Oct. 31, 1998.....Texas, 20-16



PHOTOS BY SCOTT BRUHN

ABOUT AS BAD AS IT GETS

The loss was Nebraska's worst at Memorial Stadium since 1955, when No. 1-ranked Oklahoma defeated the Cornhuskers 41-0. The worst loss in Memorial Stadium history was 10 seasons earlier, 61-7 by Minnesota in the second game in 1945.

THIRTY YEARS

The victory was Missouri's first in Lincoln since 1978, when the Tigers upset No. 2-ranked Nebraska 35-31. "This win was not about this 2008 team," Missouri coach **GARY PINKEL** said. "This was about 30 years of a lot of different fans around the country and the world, Missou fans, certainly ex-players. I am certainly proud of our players for competing hard and finally getting a win at one of the toughest places to play in the country."

Missouri wide receiver **JEREMY MACLIN**'s opinion differed from his coach's. "I don't believe in all the streaks and all that. It's a rivalry. It's not the 30 years that counted," he said. "It's the fact that it's Nebraska football. They provided a lot of locker-room board material. That kind of motivated us a little bit. We came out here and got the job done."

STILL CONFIDENT

Despite the lopsided loss, the Cornhuskers remain confident, according to senior wide receiver **NATE SWIFT**. "We all know our abilities and what we can do," he said. "We just had a stretch here of two bad games where

we couldn't get anything going. We've just got to keep our heads up, get things corrected, come back next week and do what we do."

CAN'T LET DOWN

Things don't get any easier. Nebraska now goes on the road the first time, playing at Texas Tech. "We have to move on," said cornerback **ANTHONY WEST**. "We have to get the right mindset this week."



QUICKLY

▶ Cornhusker captains were quarterback **JOE GANZ** on offense, linebacker **CODY GLENN** and tackle **NDAMUKONG SUH** on defense and wide receiver **CHRIS BROOKS** representing special teams. Ganz served as a captain for the second time this season.

▶ The loss was just the second for Nebraska in a conference opener in the last 35 seasons. The other was against Iowa State in 2002. It was the first time since 1977 that the Cornhuskers lost their first conference home game.

▶ Nebraska has now lost seven consecutive games against ranked opponents. The Cornhuskers are 5-6 at home against ranked teams since 2002.

▶ Senior quarterback **JOE GANZ** completed 26-of-38 passes for 290 yards and two touchdowns. He opened the game with eight consecutive completions. With the 290 yards, he now has 2,844 for his career, good for eighth place on Nebraska's all-time list. He moved past **SCOTT FROST** (2,677), **STEVE TAYLOR** (2,815) and **JAMMAL LORD** (2,848).

▶ **KEITH WILLIAMS** got his first start as a Cornhusker, against his home state university. The sophomore offensive lineman is from Florissant, Mo. Williams started at left guard ahead of senior **MIKE HUFF**, a returning starter and starter the first four games.

SUMMARY

SCORING

Oct. 4, 2008
Memorial Stadium • Lincoln, Neb.
Attendance: 85,372

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Tot
Missouri	14	17	21	0	52
Nebraska	7	3	0	7	17

First Quarter

MU	Maclin Pass from Daniel 58-yards (Wolfert Kick) 14:01	7	0
	Drive: 3 plays 63 yds 0:59		

NU	Swift Pass from Ganz 20-yards (Henery Kick) 09:55	7	7
	Drive: 7 plays 60 yds 4:06		

MU	Washington 3-yard Run (Wolfert Kick) 06:53	14	7
	Drive: 8 plays 80 yds 3:02		

Second Quarter

MU	Wolfert 48-yard Field Goal 10:54	17	7
	Drive: 12 plays 61 yds 5:15		

MU	Jackson 1-yard Run (Wolfert Kick) 04:08	24	7
	Drive: 10 plays 75 yds 4:04		

MU	Christopher TD INT (Wolfert Kick) 02:59	31	7
----	---	----	---

NU	Henery 28-yard Field Goal 00:22	31	10
	Drive: 12 plays 58 yds 2:31		

Third Quarter

MU	Washington Pass from Daniel 7-yards (Wolfert Kick) 07:16	38	10
	Drive: 6 plays 52 yds 2:33		

MU	Washington 43-yard Run (Wolfert Kick) 02:24	45	10
	Drive: 4 plays 72 yds 1:11		

MU	Alexander Pass from Daniel 26-yards (Wolfert Kick) 01:32	52	10
	Drive: 1 plays 26 yds 0:07		

Fourth Quarter

NU	Holt Pass from Ganz 20-yards (Henery Kick) 00:00	52	17
	Drive: 8 plays 70 yds 3:08		

TEAM STATS

	MU	NU
Total First Downs.....	24	21
Rushing.....	8	4
Passing.....	13	16
Penalty.....	3	1
Rushing Attempts.....	34	35
Yards Gained Rushing.....	207	101
Yards Lost Rushing.....	6	22
Net Yards Rushing.....	201	79
Net Yards Passing.....	261	290
Passes Attempted.....	24	38
Passes Completed.....	19	26
Had Intercepted.....	0	1
Percent Completion.....	79.2%	68.4%
Yards per Attempt.....	10.9	7.6
Yards per Completion.....	13.7	11.2
Total Offensive Plays.....	58	73
Total Net Yards.....	462	369
Avg. Gain Per Play.....	8.0	5.1
Fumbles: No-Lost.....	0-0	1-1
Penalties: No-Yards.....	1-15	14-101
Punts: No-Yards.....	0-0	4-110
Avg. Per Punt.....	0.0	27.5
Avg. Net Punt.....	0.0	27.5
Punt Returns: No-Yards.....	0-0	0-0
Kickoff Returns: No-Yards.....	2-56	4-99
Interception Returns: No-Yards.....	1-17	0-0
Fumble Returns: No-Yards.....	0-0	0-0
Miscellaneous Yards.....	0	0
Possession Time.....	26:03	33:57
Third-Down Conversions.....	7-9	12-19
Percentage.....	77.8%	63.2%
Fourth-Down Conversions.....	0-1	0-1
Percentage.....	0.0%	0.0%
Sacks By: No-Yards.....	2-15	0-0

OFFENSIVE INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

NEBRASKA

Rushing	No	Gain	Lost	Net	Avg	TD	Lg
Lucky	14	48	2	46	3.3	0	9
Castille	12	30	4	26	2.2	0	6
Helu Jr.	5	12	1	11	2.2	0	7
Paul	1	3	0	3	3.0	0	3
Ganz	3	8	15	-7	-2.3	0	8
Total	35	101	22	79	2.3	0	9

Passing	Att	Comp	%	Int	Yds	TD	Lg
Ganz	38	26	68.4	1	290	2	27

Receiving	No	Yds	TD	Lg
Peterson	7	81	0	22
Holt	5	67	1	21
Helu Jr.	4	47	0	27
Swift	5	45	1	20
McNeill	2	37	0	24
Young	1	10	0	10
Hill	2	3	0	2
Total	26	290	2	27

Punt Ret	No	Yds	TD	Lg
None				

Kick Ret	No	Yds	TD	Lg
Paul	3	88	0	36
Dennard	1	11	0	11
Total	4	99	0	36

Punting	No	Avg	Lg	Blk	TB	FC	50+	In 20
Wesch	1	40.0	40	0	0	1	0	1
Titchener	3	23.3	37	0	0	2	0	1
Total	4	27.5	40	0	0	3	0	2

Field Goals	Made	Att	Lg	Blkd
Henery	1	1	28	0

Defense	Solo	Ast	Tot	TFL	Sac	PD	FF	FR
Suh	2	5	7	1.5-2	0-0	0	0	0
Potter	1	5	6	1.5-2	0-0	0	0	0
Steinkuhler	0	6	6	0.5-1	0-0	0	0	0
Allen	1	4	5	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
O'Hanlon	4	1	5	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Thorell	4	1	5	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Dillard	1	3	4	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Holt	3	0	3	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Thenarse	1	2	3	0.5-1	0-0	1	0	0
West	2	1	3	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Barfield	1	1	2	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Hagg	2	0	2	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Murillo	1	1	2	0-0	0-0	1	0	0
Sievers	1	1	2	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Amukamara	1	0	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Asante	1	0	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Cammack	1	0	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Culbert	1	0	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Moore	0	1	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0

Interception Ret	No	Yds	TD	Lg
None				

MISSOURI

Rushing	No	Gain	Lost	Net	Avg	TD	Lg
Washington	14	141	2	139	9.9	2	43
Moore	7	35	1	34	4.9	0	16
Maclin	3	15	0	15	5.0	0	6
Jackson	8	14	3	11	1.4	1	6
Patton	1	2	0	2	2.0	0	2
Daniel	1	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
Total	34	207	6	201	5.9	3	43

Passing	Att	Comp	%	Int	Yds	TD	Lg
Daniel	23	18	78.3	0	253	3	58
Patton	1	1	100.0	0	8	0	8
Total	24	19	79.2	0	261	3	58

Receiving	No	Yds	TD	Lg
Maclin	5	89	1	58
Coffman	5	71	0	26
Alexander	2	46	1	26
Saunders	3	21	0	11
Perry	1	13	0	13
Washington	2	13	1	7
Jones	1	8	0	8
Total	19	261	3	58

Punt Ret	No	Yds	TD	Lg
None				

Kick Ret	No	Yds	TD	Lg
Maclin	2	56	0	34

Punting	No	Avg	Lg	Blk	TB	FC	50+	In 20
None								

Field Goals	Made	Att	Lg	Blkd
Wolfert	1	2	48	0

Defense	Solo	Ast	Tot	TFL	Sac	PD	FF	FR
Weatherspoon	5	4	9	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Bridges	5	3	8	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Christopher	4	2	6	0.5-1	0-0	1	0	0
Moore	2	4	6	0-0	0-0	1	0	0
Chavis	4	1	5	1.5-8	1-7	0	0	0
Garrett	1	4	5	0-0	0-0	1	0	0
Sulak	3	1	4	2-4	0-0	0	1	0
Gettis	2	1	3	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Hamilton	1	2	3	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Jackson	1	2	3	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Ricks	1	2	3	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Vaughns	2	1	3	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Baston	2	0	2	1-8	1-8	0	0	0
Ebner	1	1	2	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Gachkar	0	2	2	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Hood	1	1	2	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Howard	0	2	2	0-0	0-0	0	0	0

Interception Ret	No	Yds	TD	Lg
Christopher	1	17	1	17

NEBRASKA SEASON LEADERS

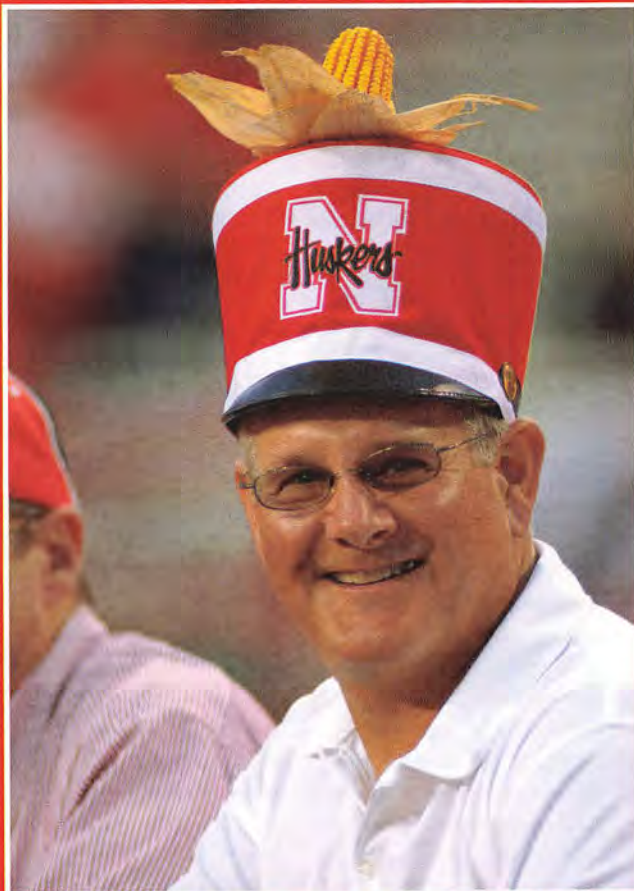
Rushing	G	No	Gain	Lost	Net	Avg	TD	Lg	Yd/G
Lucky, Marlon	5	56	254	22	232	4.1	4	58	46.4
Helu Jr., Roy	5	32	183	8	175	5.5	2	27	35.0
Castille, Quentin	5	37	130	9	121	3.3	1	17	24.2
Ganz, Joe	5	28	169	53	116	4.1	1	33	23.2
Mendoza, Marcus	2	5	47	2	45	9.0	0	35	22.5
Passing	G	Att	Comp	%	Int	Yds	TD	Lg	Yd/G
Ganz, Joe	5	142	93	65.5	5	1287	9	61	257.4
Total	5	151	99	65.6	5	1352	10	61	270.4
Receiving	G	No	Yds	Avg	TD	Lg	Yd/G		
Swift, Nate	5	20	304	15.2	3	61	60.8		
Peterson, Todd	5	22	268	12.2	1	25	53.6		
Holt, Menelik	5	13	170	13.1	1	25	34.0		
McNeill, Mike	5	8	163	20.4	3	35	32.6		
Helu Jr., Roy	5	7	95	13.6	0	27	19.0		
Lucky, Marlon	5	8	94	11.8	1	29	18.8		
Young, Dreu	5	3	75	25.0	0	55	15.0		
Int Ret	G	No	Yds	Avg	TD	Lg	Yd/G		
Murillo, Armando	5	1	57	57.0	0	57	11.4		
Suh, Ndamukong	5	1	49	49.0	1	49	9.8		
West, Anthony	4	1	26	26.0	0	26	6.5		
O'Hanlon, Matt	5	1	21	21.0	0	21	4.2		
Potter, Zach	5	1	11	11.0	0	11	2.2		
Defense	Tack	TFL	Sack						
Glenn, Cody	35	3-14	0-0						
Dillard, Phillip	32	0-6	0-6						
Allen, Pierre	28	3-11	1-2						
Steinkuhler, Ty	26	0-3	0-1						
Suh, Ndamukong	26	4-18	2-15						
O'Hanlon, Matt	25	1-2	0-0						
Murillo, Armando	23	1-1	0-0						
Asante, Larry	21	0-0	0-0						
Hagg, Eric	21	1-5	0-0						
Potter, Zach	21	3-18	1-15						
Amukamara, Prince	20	0-0	0-0						



2008 NEBRASKA FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

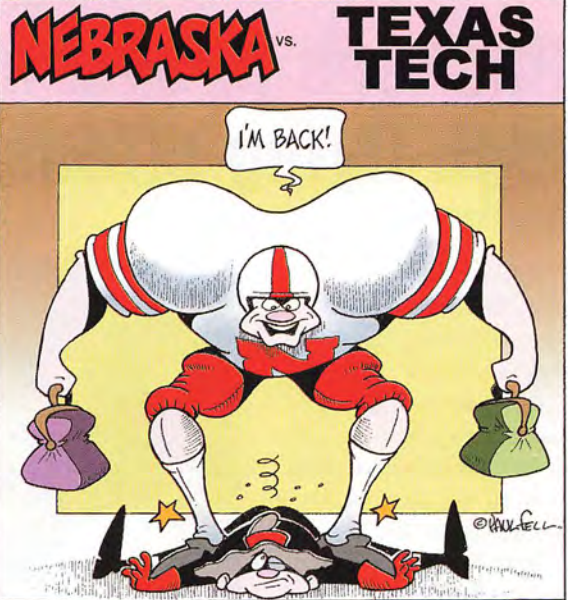
Sat., Aug. 30	Western Michigan	Memorial Stadium	W, 47-24
Sat., Sept. 6	San Jose State	Memorial Stadium	W, 35-12
Sat., Sept. 13	New Mexico State	Memorial Stadium	W, 38-7
Sat., Sept. 27	Virginia Tech	Memorial Stadium	L, 30-35
Sat., Oct. 4	No. 4/3 Missouri	Memorial Stadium	L, 17-52
Sat., Oct. 11	Texas Tech	at Lubbock, Texas	TBA
Sat., Oct. 18	Iowa State	at Ames, Iowa	TBA
Sat., Oct. 25	Baylor	Memorial Stadium	TBA
Sat., Nov. 1	Oklahoma	at Norman, Okla.	TBA
Sat., Nov. 8	Kansas	Memorial Stadium	TBA
Sat., Nov. 15	Kansas State	at Manhattan, Kan.	TBA
Fri., Nov. 28	Colorado	Memorial Stadium	2:30 p.m. (ABC)
Sat., Dec. 6	Big 12 Championship	at Kansas City, Mo. (Arrowhead Stadium)	7 p.m. (ABC)

FAN OF THE GAME



Steve Brewer of North Platte, Neb., sports a special look for Nebraska's game against Missouri.

THE PAUL FELL PREDICTION



OCTOBER 11, 2008
HUSKERS VISIT LUBBOCK AND THEY'RE NOT IN A GOOD MOOD. BIG RED HAD BETTER BE READY TO STOP THE RED RAIDER AIR SHOW!

THIS WEEK'S PICKS



AARON BABCOCK, Editor
Last Week: (5-0) Season: (18-6)
Nebraska @ Texas Tech
Texas @ Oklahoma
Colorado @ Kansas
Kansas State @ Texas A&M
Oklahoma State @ Missouri

TT 55-21
OU 34-20
KU 35-31
KSU 24-21
MU 45-43



MIKE BABCOCK, Contributing Editor
Last Week: (5-0) Season: (20-4)
Nebraska @ Texas Tech
Texas @ Oklahoma
Colorado @ Kansas
Kansas State @ Texas A&M
Oklahoma State @ Missouri

TT 50-28
OU 38-17
KU 35-10
KSU 21-17
MU 49-38



TERRY DOUGLASS, Grand Island Independent
Last Week: (5-0) Season: (20-4)
Nebraska @ Texas Tech
Texas @ Oklahoma
Colorado @ Kansas
Kansas State @ Texas A&M
Oklahoma State @ Missouri



MATT DAVISON, Husker Sports Network
Last Week: (5-0) Season: (20-4)
Nebraska @ Texas Tech
Texas @ Oklahoma
Colorado @ Kansas
Kansas State @ Texas A&M
Oklahoma State @ Missouri

TT 49-34
OU 34-41
KU 35-21
KSU 34-13
OSU 48-42



SEAN CALLAHAN, HuskersIllustrated.com
Last Week: (5-0) Season: (17-2)
Nebraska @ Texas Tech
Texas @ Oklahoma
Colorado @ Kansas
Kansas State @ Texas A&M
Oklahoma State @ Missouri

TT 48-31
OU 38-34
KU 34-23
A&M 41-31
MU 55-41

Huskers prepare for high-flying offense

BY STEVEN M. SIPPLE

Nebraska will have perhaps only a few advantages when it lines up Saturday against prohibitive favorite Texas Tech.

One thing that might help the Huskers is their familiarity with the Red Raiders' style of offense, especially after having faced New Mexico State on Sept. 13.

Texas Tech and New Mexico State's many offensive similarities stem from their head coaches essentially growing up together in the business. Texas Tech's Mike Leach worked as offensive coordinator for New Mexico State's Hal Mumme at three stops – Iowa Wesleyan (1989-91), Valdosta (Ga.) State (1992-96) and Kentucky (1997-98).

How similar are Leach and Mumme's offenses?

"I know Texas Tech's plays by watching Mike's hand signals," Mumme says.

Not much has changed in their pass-oriented offenses in since their days at Iowa Wesleyan, Mumme says. The basic premise: Create ways to get the ball in the hands of all skill-position players, attack the entire field and exploit weaknesses in the defense.

Nebraska was successful in limiting New Mexico State's offense in a 38-7 victory at Memorial Stadium. The Aggies threw for 225 yards -- 55 coming on a play in the final two minutes of the game. Of course, Texas Tech poses a much more formidable challenge.

The Red Raiders basically cruised through their pre-Big 12 Conference schedule with a 4-0 record before having a bye on the



weekend of Sept. 27. Through four games, the Raiders ranked third nationally in total offense (572.8 yards per game) and first in passing offense (426.25).

In recent years, Texas Tech fans have watched passing records get blown away in the West Texas wind.

All the while, there's been a misconception by some people that Leach runs a complicated system. But he doesn't have a thick playbook, and there's not much terminology. He preaches precision and repetition.

"I don't think any good offenses are complicated," he says. "Whoever your dumbest guy is at the point of attack, he'd better be able to pull the trigger and execute without hesitation."

It'll be interesting to see how well Bo Pelini's defense handles a Texas Tech offense that last season finished second nationally at 529.6 yards per game. The Red Raiders, 9-4 overall and 4-4 in the Big 12 in 2007, returned 10 starters on offense from that team, and eight on defense. All those returners helps explain why many prognosticators feel the Raiders can legitimately

challenge Texas and Oklahoma this season for supremacy in the Big 12 South Division.

As for the soaring expectations at Texas Tech, "The most important thing is just to successfully ignore them," says Leach, in his ninth season at the school.

The Red Raiders have finished 4-4 in the conference the last two seasons. Their best league finish in Leach's tenure was 6-2 in 2005, good for a tie for second.

Leach acknowledges that the current excitement about his program from fans and pundits isn't necessarily a hindrance.

The thing is, "I'm always real excited and always think we're going to win," he says. "To me, the excitement at our place lately has come a little more from our guys enjoying being around each other. If you go downtown, there's not just one player -- there's like 20 of them together. They hang out and spend quite a bit of time together. That's the part I notice the most rather than a glowing article here and there."

Leach beams as he recalls his coaching days with Mumme. It was obviously an enjoyable time in Leach's career. In their days



TEXAS TECH QUICK FACTS

Head coach: Mike Leach (69-37 ninth season at Tech)

Enrollment: 29,000

Colors: Scarlet and Black

Conference: Big 12

Starters returning/lost: 24/6

Series record: NU leads 7-2

2008 SCHEDULE

8/30 EASTERN WASH., W 49-24

9/6 at Nevada, W 35-19

9/13 SMU, W 43-7

9/20 UMASS, W 56-14

10/4 at Kansas State

10/11 NEBRASKA

10/18 at Texas A&M

10/25 at Kansas

11/1 TEXAS

11/8 OKLAHOMA STATE

11/22 at Oklahoma

11/29 BAYLOR

at Iowa Wesleyan, Leach says, "We would pack into some nasty little car and drive through the most miserable weather in the Midwest and go anywhere we could to study football. It didn't matter if it was a high school that had something interesting going on. We even went up to the Green Bay Packers when Lindy Infante was there. We went to colleges all over the place.

"We would go anywhere and everywhere to study football, and I think the knowledge base was really beneficial." **N**

COURTESY OF TEXAS TECH MEDIA RELATIONS

TEXAS TECH ROSTER

#	QUARTERBACKS	>>>	HT	WT	YR.
6	Graham Harrell	QB	6-3	205	Sr.
15	Taylor Potts	QB	6-5	215	So.
16	Stefan Loucks	QB	6-1	171	RFr.
18	Steven Sheffield	QB	6-4	181	So.

#	OFFENSIVE LINE	>>>	HT	WT	YR.
51	Shawn Byrnes	C	6-4	295	Jr.
65	Louis Vasquez	OL	6-6	335	Sr.
67	Marlon Winn	OL	6-6	325	Jr.
69	Jake Johnson	OL	6-7	370	Sr.
70	Chris Olson	OL	6-5	271	So.
71	Stephen Hamby	OL	6-3	292	Sr.
74	Rylan Reed	OL	6-7	305	Sr.
76	Brandon Carter	OL	6-7	354	Jr.
77	Mickey Okafor	OL	6-7	326	RFr.
78	Lonnie Edwards	OL	6-5	288	RFr.
50	Austin Burns	DS	5-10	238	Jr.

#	RUNNING BACKS	>>>	HT	WT	YR.
2	Shannon Woods	RB	5-11	194	Sr.
10	Harrison Jeffers	RB	5-9	210	Fr.
25	Baron Batch	RB	5-11	200	So.
32	Aaron Crawford	RB	5-11	199	So.
47	Ryan Hale	RB	6-1	227	Jr.
48	Gerardo Acevedo	RB	6-1	203	So.
89	J.J. Griffin	RB	5-10	200	Sr.

#	RECEIVERS	>>>	HT	WT	YR.
11	Tramain Swindall	IR	6-3	175	RFr.
12	Eric Morris	IR	5-8	177	Sr.
17	Detron Lewis	IR	6-0	209	So.
82	Adam James	IR	6-3	217	RFr.
83	Blake Kelley	IR	5-11	180	Jr.
4	Todd Walker	WR	6-1	180	Jr.
5	Michael Crabtree	WR	6-3	214	So.
8	Jacoby Franks	WR	6-1	194	RFr.
14	Landon Hoefer	WR	6-1	200	Jr.
19	Lyle Leong	WR	6-1	165	So.
27	Edward Britton	WR	6-0	174	Jr.
86	Rashad Hawk	WR	6-4	183	RFr.

#	DEFENSIVE LINE	>>>	HT	WT	YR.
43	McKinner Dixon	DE	6-3	250	Jr.
46	Sandy Riley	DE	6-0	237	Jr.
53	Daniel Howard	DE	6-3	239	Jr.
84	Brandon Williams	DE	6-5	246	Jr.
90	Brandon Sesay	DE	6-6	278	Jr.
92	Brandon Sharpe	DE	6-3	244	Jr.
98	Jake Ratliff	DE	6-7	255	Sr.
93	Colby Whitlock	DL	6-2	281	So.
94	Chris Perry	DL	6-3	308	Fr.
95	David Neill	DL	6-5	263	RFr.
42	Clint Stoffels	DT	6-0	254	So.
91	Ra'Jon Henley	DT	6-3	266	Jr.
99	Richard Jones	DT	6-1	272	Jr.

#	DEFENSIVE BACKS	>>>	HT	WT	YR.
1	Marcus Bunton	CB	5-9	192	Sr.
21	L.A. Reed	CB	6-2	212	Sr.
3	Jamar Wall	DB	5-10	195	Jr.
22	De'Shon Sanders	DB	6-1	198	RJr.
28	LaRon Moore	DB	5-9	186	So.
29	Taylor Charbonnet	DB	5-10	168	RFr.
31	Pete Richardson	DB	5-11	185	Jr.
33	Brent Nickerson	DB	6-0	195	Sr.
34	Jared Flannel	DB	5-11	173	RFr.
7	Darcel McBath	S	6-1	196	Sr.
10	Daniel Charbonnet	S	5-11	203	Sr.
23	Anthony Hines	S	6-1	222	Sr.
24	Lance Fuller	S	6-2	217	Sr.
26	Franklin Mitchem	S	6-2	201	So.
30	Brett Dewhurst	S	6-0	194	So.
38	Jordy Rowland	S	6-1	196	Sr.

#	LINEBACKERS	>>>	HT	WT	YR.
13	Julius Howard	LB	6-1	210	So.
20	Bront Bird	LB	6-3	220	So.
39	Marlon Williams	LB	6-0	224	Jr.
41	Sam Fehoko	LB	5-11	236	RFr.
45	Tyrone Sonier	LB	6-2	215	RFr.
52	Victor Hunter	LB	5-11	256	Jr.
57	Brian Duncan	LB	6-1	238	So.

#	KICKERS	>>>	HT	WT	YR.
37	Cory Fowler	K	5-8	161	Sr.
9	Jonathan LaCour	P/K	6-2	208	So.
36	Teddy Karcasinas	PK	6-1	190	Jr.
49	Donnie Carona	PK	6-0	215	Fr.

NEBRASKA TENTATIVE 2-DEEPS

OFFENSE					
WR	87	Swift, Nate	6-2	200	Sr.
	4	Menelik Holt	6-4	220	Jr.
	8	Will Henry	6-5	220	So.

LT	65	Smith, Mike	6-6	285	So.
	72	Jaivorio Burkes	6-5	325	So.

LG	61	Mike Huff	6-4	300	Sr.
	68	Keith Williams	6-5	305	So.

C	67	Jacob Hickman	6-4	290	Jr.
	58	Mike Caputo	6-1	275	RFr.

RG	70	Matt Slauson	6-5	320	Sr.
	73	D.J. Jones	6-5	305	So.

RT	76	Murtha, Lydon	6-7	315	Sr.
	78	Marcel Jones	6-7	310	RFr.

TE	44	Mike McNeill	6-4	240	So.
	49	Dreu Young	6-4	245	So.
	89	Hunter Teafattiller	6-3	240	Sr.

WR	17	Todd Peterson	6-4	215	Sr.
	24	Niles Paul	6-1	210	So.
(or)	11	Curenski Gilleylen	6-0	210	RFr.

QB	12	Joe Ganz	6-1	210	Sr.
	2	Patrick Witt	6-2	225	RFr.
	3	Zac Lee	6-4	210	So.

IB	5	Marlon Lucky	6-0	215	Sr.
(or)	10	Roy Helu Jr.	6-0	215	So.
(or)	29	Quentin Castille	6-1	235	So.

FB	36	Thomas Lawson	6-0	250	Sr.
	45	Justin Makovicka	6-1	240	So.

DEFENSE					
DE	98	Zach Potter	6-7	280	Sr.
	88	Clayton Sievers	6-4	255	Sr.

NT	93	Ndamukong Suh	6-4	300	Jr.
	56	Shukree Barfield	6-4	290	Sr.
	90	Terrence Moore	6-3	275	RFr.

DT	43	Ty Steinkuhler	6-3	280	Sr.
	94	Jared Crick	6-6	280	RFr.

DE	95	Pierre Allen	6-5	265	So.
	96	Cameron Meredith	6-4	235	Fr.

WLB	34	Cody Glenn	6-0	235	Sr.
	40	Blake Lawrence	6-3	225	So.

MLB	52	Phillip Dillard	6-1	235	Jr.
	51	Will Compton	6-2	230	Fr.
	54	Colton Koehler	6-1	230	Jr.

BLB	53	Tyler Wortman	6-3	235	Sr.
	42	Sean Fisher	6-6	225	Fr.
	7	Latravis Washington	6-3	225	So.

RC	5	Anthony West	6-0	200	So.
	21	Prince Amukamara	6-1	195	So.
	23	Lance Thorell	6-1	190	RFr.

LC	6	Armando Murillo	6-0	190	Sr.
	28	Eric Hagg	6-1	200	So.
	15	Alfonzo Dennard	5-10	190	Fr.

SS	4	Larry Asante	6-1	210	Jr.
	2	Major Culbert	6-0	205	Jr.

FS	33	Matt O'Hanlon	5-11	195	Jr.
(or)	3	Rickey Thenarse	6-0	195	Jr.



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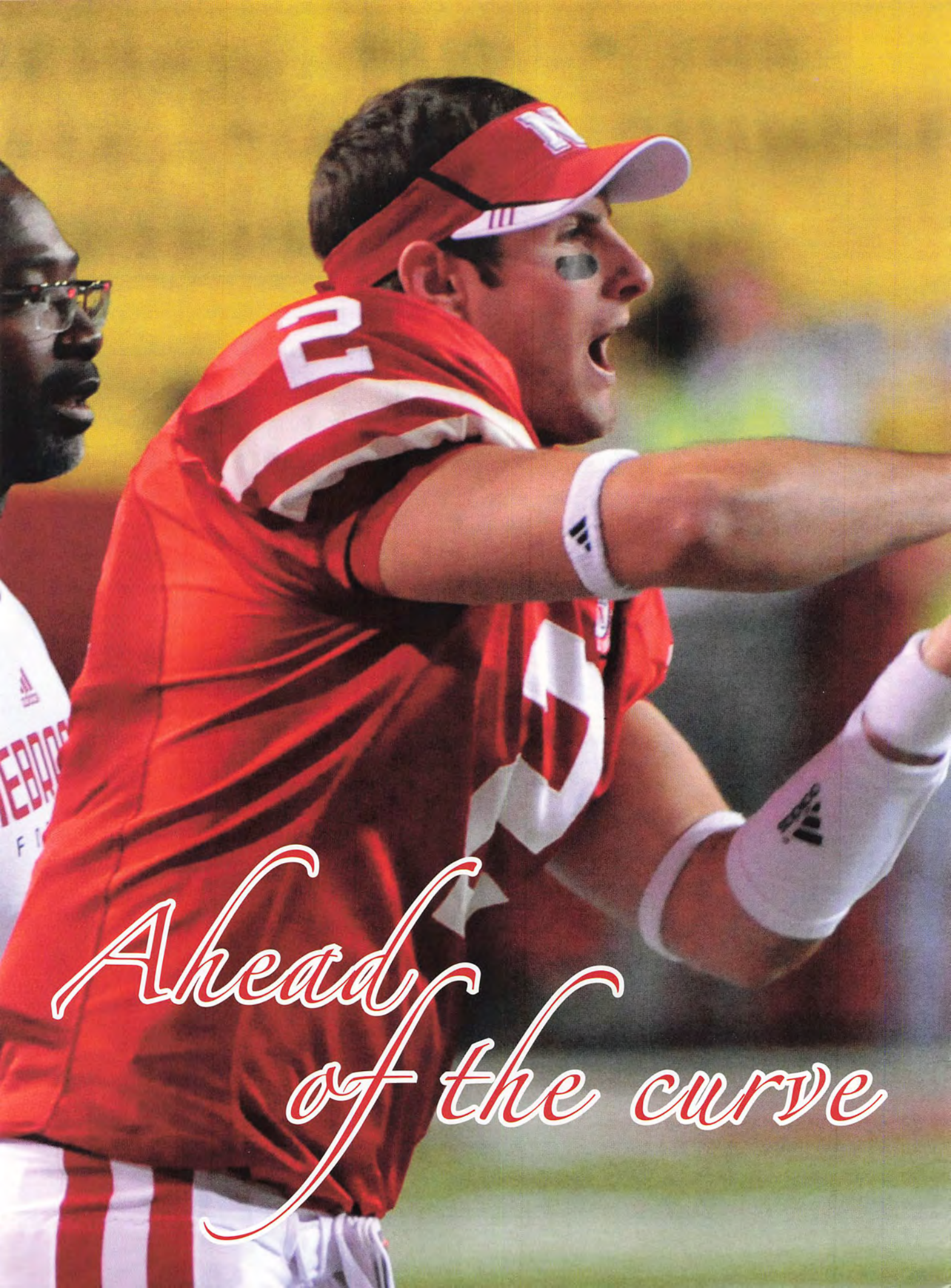
UPCOMING EVENTS

OCT. 23 WALK-ON CLUB LUNCHEON

with keynote speaker Jeff Jamrog,
Director of Football Operations

NOV. 20 WALK-ON CLUB LUNCHEON

with keynote speaker Marvin Sanders,
Husker Secondary Coach



*Ahead
of the curve*



BY STEVEN M. SIPPLE

Witt preparing for the big test

Come to think of it, it's easy to imagine Patrick Witt as a baseball pitcher. Standing 6-4 and weighing 225 pounds, he would be an imposing figure on the mound. He has a strong right arm. He even has a "baseball" name of sorts. In fact, there have been at least two former major league pitchers with the same last name as Patrick (Bobby Witt and Mike Witt).

Patrick Witt, a redshirt freshman quarterback at Nebraska, obviously prefers tossing footballs. But back at Parkview High School in Lilburn, Ga., he actually was a decent baseball pitcher. He threw a good fastball and could get his curve over the plate, he says. He was fairly serious about pursuing baseball.

After his junior year at Parkview, he had a decision to make: Baseball or football.

Nebraska football coaches are pleased he chose the latter.

Witt currently works as the Huskers' top backup behind senior starter Joe Ganz. The coaches continually have expressed confidence in Witt's strong grasp of the team's rather complex offense and ability to manage it. He's obviously a focused individual. For instance, he eschewed media interview requests throughout preseason camp in August, seeking to concentrate on the task at hand – that is, improving his game and getting a stranglehold on the No. 2 spot behind Ganz.

"It was all about taking the next step in the offense – taking command of the huddle and really stepping up into a leadership position," Witt says.

The bottom line is, Witt has more experience running Nebraska offensive coordinator Shawn Watson's offense than third-string quarterback Zac Lee. Both arrived on campus in January of 2007 – Witt out of high school and Lee out of San Francisco City College – but Lee had to sit out of spring drills that year with a knee injury.

"Patrick has a good feel for the offense," Watson says.

After playing a series at the end of Nebraska's 35-12 win against San Jose State on Sept. 6, Witt received two full series of action

Sept. 13 in the Huskers' 38-7 victory over New Mexico State, completing 3 of 4 pass attempts for 40 yards. He had a completion that went for 23 yards while leading a nine-play, 52-yard drive that led to Alex Henery's 19-yard field goal to make it 38-7. However, Witt was charged with two fumbles, both occurring on botched exchanges with center Jacob Hickman. The first such fumble was returned 48 yards by Marvin Betts and set up the Aggies' only score of the night.

"I didn't play very well," says Witt flatly, referring mostly to the quarterback-center exchange issues.

Says Watson: "He did some really good things. I thought his poise was excellent. Unfortunately, the snap issues are what you remember."

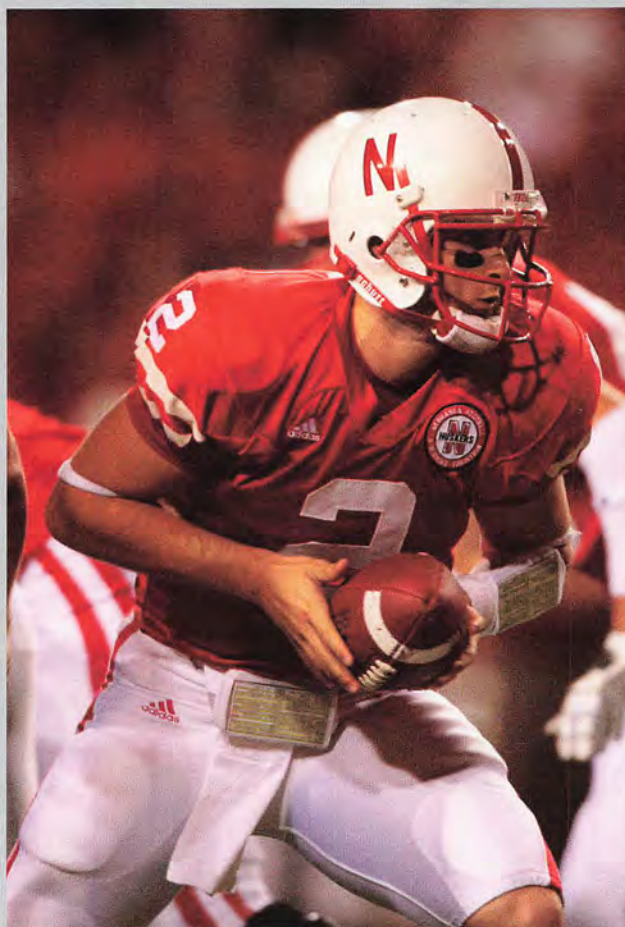
"I made some mistakes," Witt adds. "Missed a couple plays here and there. It's something I have to improve."

Witt admits he's hard on himself, "But you have to be," he says. "I take responsibility for how I played. I have to put the snap issues on me. It's something we work on. You have to be 100 percent in that area."

Watson says Witt must be strong in every area because he's being pushed daily by Lee as well as senior Beau Davis. Lee, however, represents the main competition. A 6-2, 210-pound native of San Francisco, Lee rebounded from the knee injury that sidelined him during the spring of 2007 to earn Scout Team MVP honors last fall. He continued to improve this past spring and in preseason camp in August.

"Every day is competitive," Watson says. "Pat's in a battle, man. He has good players behind him."

It probably should come as no surprise that Witt's foremost attribute is arguably his intelligence operating the offense. His intelligence and maturity are reflected in his



grade-point average—a perfect 4.0. A finance major, Witt says he works diligently on academics.

"Test day's like game day for me," he says. "You have to be prepared."

Witt also had a perfect grade-point average throughout high school. He last received a 'B' in seventh grade because he experienced difficulty performing a cartwheel in gym class.

"I couldn't do one to save my life," he says grinning. "That was like the final in the class. I botched it big-time. The teacher gave me a B-plus, and that was probably very generous of him."

"Gymnastics is definitely not the route for me."

He found a smoother route playing football. He actually played his senior season of high school for Wylie (Texas) High after moving from Georgia following his junior season. At Wylie, he threw for 1,846 yards and 17 touchdowns while completing passes

at a 57-percent clip. He also ran for 330 yards and four touchdowns as Wylie fell one win short of the state playoffs. Witt was named the team's MVP.

As a junior at Parkview High in Lilburn, Witt threw for 12 touchdowns and more than 1,000 yards while completing 63 percent of his throws. He also rushed for 250 yards and 15 touchdowns. Rivals.com ranked him among the top 100 prospects in Texas and he drew strong recruiting interest from Texas A&M and Texas Tech, among others.

His parents, Gene and Kathy Witt, are airline pilots, his father working for Delta and his mother for American.

His brother, Jeff, is a senior at Harvard, a former

quarterback for the Ivy League university who ended his playing career in 2006 after suffering a shoulder injury. Once Jeff graduates, he'll begin work full time in New York City with the global financial services firm Morgan Stanley.

Meanwhile, Patrick Witt plans to attend law school after earning his master's degree from Nebraska. He plans to use only five years to obtain his master's.

Indeed, Witt evidently manages his life as well as he manages Nebraska's offense. He's in control.

Come to think of it, Witt enjoyed pitching because it meant he was in control. Same goes for being a quarterback.

"You want to have that ball in your hand," he says. "You definitely want to be making the decisions out there. And those are two positions where everybody's counting on you. And that's a responsibility you have to relish and thrive in." **N**

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JEFF TEZAK



BASEBALL

Tezak sees big picture

BY TOMMY DAHLK

Last spring, senior Jeff Tezak wasn't looking at the big picture. Now, six months after having surgery on his left knee, the 2007 All-Big 12 second-team selection as a designated hitter is starting to see the benefits of taking a medical redshirt in 2008.

Last winter, before the 2008 Nebraska baseball season, Tezak experienced pain in his left knee. He doesn't remember the exact moment when the pain started to come and said it was a gradual injury that lingered heading into the season.

The knee was really hurting as the Huskers started their season. Still, his desire to play was greater than the pain he felt

in his knee. But after seven games, all as a starter, he knew he couldn't last any longer and would be hurting himself and the team if he continued to play.

"My knee was hurt bad and I tried to stick with it," Tezak said. "Then there just became a point where I couldn't take it anymore. There was only so much you could take mentally."

At the time, Tezak was bummed. His senior season was ruined.

But after the surgery, he started to see the benefits of taking that year off.

The California native said having an extra year has helped other parts of his life. During his injury, he really had time to think about what he wanted to do with the rest of his life if his dream of making the big leagues didn't pan out.

He will earn his degree in political science in December. If he had played in pain last spring, he would have had to come back at some point and finish anyway. Now, he'll be making progress towards a graduate degree during the 2009 season.

Tezak, who had 51 starts and hit .335 with three home runs and 37 RBIs in 2007, also will get to lead a young Husker squad that he's become close with. Most importantly, he won't have to deal with that nagging knee injury this spring.

Last spring, none of these things really crossed Tezak's mind while he was playing hurt.

"You hope that things happen for a reason, so maybe there's something else happening that you just don't see," Tezak said. "At the time, I definitely didn't see it because I wanted to play so badly. But it's starting to come together." **N**

NEBRASKA BASEBALL ROSTER

25	Anderson, Erik	RHP	R/R	5-11	185	Jr.
22	Asche, Cody	INF	L/R	6-1	185	Fr.
12	Bailey, Adam	OF/LHP	L/L	6-1	195	Jr.
4	Belfonte, DJ *	OF	L/L	5-10	180	Jr.
30	Bird, Erik **	RHP	R/R	6-1	220	Sr.
17	Broekemeier, Joe	RHP	R/R	6-4	204	So.
6	Bubak, Kyle	INF	S/R	6-1	185	Jr.
13	Burleson, Cory	C	S/R	6-1	210	Fr.
1	Collins, Boomer	INF/OF	R/R	6-0	185	Fr.
24	Cooper, Khiry	OF	R/R	6-2	180	Fr.
32	Farst, Tyler	1B/OF	R/R	6-1	215	Jr.
11	Freeman, Matt	RHP	R/R	6-1	185	So.
16	Hanson, Jed	RHP/C	R/R	6-1	190	Jr.
18	Hauptman, Casey	RHP	R/R	6-4	218	So.
26	Hood, Seth	OF	R/R	6-1	200	Fr.
9	Johnston, Dan	INF/OF	R/R	6-1	178	So.
3	Kalkowski, Kash	RHP/INF	R/R	6-1	195	Fr.
28	Kerkhoff, Nate	LHP	L/L	5-11	170	Fr.
14	Kiser, Kale	INF	S/R	5-10	175	Fr.
20	Kline, Ben	INF	R/R	6-3	180	So.
39	Ludemann, Nick	RHP	R/R	6-5	200	Fr.
33	Mariot, Michael	RHP	R/R	6-0	180	So.
36	Massey, Taylor	LHP	L/L	6-1	170	Fr.
2	Mort, Jake **	INF	R/R	5-11	170	Sr.
35	Neer, Cody	C/1B	S/R	6-3	215	Fr.
41	Neseth, Mike	RHP	R/R	6-4	213	So.
38	Raburn, Josh	LHP	L/L	6-1	160	Fr.
7	Rank, Tyler	RHP/1B	L/R	6-4	230	So.
43	Rose, Eric	LHP	L/L	6-1	237	So.
34	Roualdes, Jordan	LHP	L/L	6-2	215	Jr.
5	Stewart, David	OF	L/R	6-5	222	So.
21	Sullivan, Nick **	OF	L/R	5-11	200	Sr.
19	Tezak, Jeff *	INF	S/R	5-10	180	Sr.
23	Thompson, Cade	1B	L/L	6-3	195	Jr.
8	Yost, Sean	RHP	R/R	6-7	185	R-Fr.

* Letters earned

HUSKER QUICK HITS



DOUBLE DUTY

Coach **JOHN WALKER's** Husker soccer team rode the momentum of a five-match unbeaten streak at the end of non-conference play to a good start in the Big 12, winning its first two matches, both in double overtime and both in Lincoln.

The Huskers defeated No. 25 Kansas in their conference opener 2-1, when freshman forward **MOLLY THOMAS** (above) scored in the 106th minute. **SHAY POWELL** scored her team-leading sixth goal in the 70th minute for the overtime-forcing tie.

Two days later, the Huskers defeated Missouri 3-2, when **SARI RABER** scored in the 107th minute, off an assist by Powell. Nebraska rallied from two deficits in regulation. **CARLY PEETZ** tied the score at 1 on an assist by **SELENIA IACCHELLI** in the 37th minute. **ANNA CANIGLIA** scored for a tie at 2 in the 89th minute, with assists by Peetz and Iacchelli.

The Huskers hadn't won consecutive multiple-overtime matches since the end of the 1996 season. The 2-0 start in the conference was their best since 2004.

They were scheduled to play Texas at home before going on the road for the first time in conference play, against Baylor.

AWARDS

Huskers **MOLLY THOMAS** and **SHAY POWELL** earned weekly honors at the end of September. Thomas, a freshman from Omaha, was named Big 12 soccer newcomer of the week, while Powell, a junior from Dallas, was selected to the Soccer Buzz Elite Team of the Week. Through the first 11 matches, Powell led the Huskers with 14 points, on six goals and two assists.

SHERMAN FIELD

Coach **MIKE ANDERSON's** Cornhuskers

are finishing fall practice at Lincoln's Sherman Field while the turf is being replaced at Hawks Field at Haymarket Park. The team moved to Sherman Field, once home to a minor league team, in mid-September.

Nebraska's Red-White series is scheduled for Oct. 14-15 there, then the Cornhuskers are scheduled to finish fall practice with a game against Iowa at Iowa City on Oct. 17.

TOP PROSPECT

Baseball America included Cornhusker right-hander **MIKE NESSETH** among the top-10 prospects in the Northwoods League after the sophomore from Windom, Minn., went 0-2 with a 2.93 earned-run-average in six starts for the Duluth Huskies over the summer.

The league coaches voted him the No. 2 prospect.

Neseth struck out 27 in 31 innings. Opponents batted only .212 against him.

As a redshirted freshman last season, Neseth was 4-1 with a 3.58 ERA, 53 strikeouts and 14 walks in 37.2 innings. He was second on the team with 27 appearances.

ELITE TIME TRIAL

Cyclist **AMBER NEBEN**, a former Husker distance runner, won gold in the elite women's time trial at road worlds in Varese, Italy, in late September. Neben finished the 25.15-kilometer course just 7.56 seconds ahead of Austria's Christiane Soeder.

Neben is the fourth U.S. woman to win the world time trial title since competition began in 1994. She also competed in the women's road race at the 2008 Olympics in Beijing, China, finished 33rd overall, 53 seconds behind gold medalist Nicole Cooke of Great Britain.

Neben, from Anaheim, Calif., competed at Nebraska from 1993 to 1995, when a stress fracture forced her out of running competition and into cycling.



Volleyball

LINDSEY LICH

BY BOB HAMAR

Licht shooting to go from good to great

It's easy to see why Lindsey Licht might be compared to Sarah Pavan.

Licht, a sophomore on the Nebraska volleyball team, is a 6-5 left handed rightside hitter. Pavan, a four-time first-team All-American who completed her college eligibility last season, was also a 6-5 left handed rightside hitter.

But Licht isn't looking to be the next Pavan.

"I try to look at it as I'm here to make a name for myself," Licht said. "Sarah was an amazing player. There is no way I'm going to accomplish what she did here. I just do what I can and play how I can play and just be me."

"People have to realize I'm not going to be her. I have a different style of play. I'm me."

But there are still those who might compare Licht with Pavan. Texas coach Jerritt Elliott said Licht had plenty of incentive when the Longhorns played at Nebraska on Sept. 20. Licht hammered 17 kills and hit .500 that night to help the Huskers to a 25-17, 21-25, 25-23, 25-18 victory.

"It's home environment," Elliott said about Licht's performance. "It's coming out to prove she's worthy. I know she's had a lot of pressure on her from people in the media talking about her being the next Pavan and I think she's done an exceptional job."

"I felt like in watching all the matches we have on them that when she plays well, they do some pretty good things."

That's why the Longhorns wanted to keep



Licht in check, but it didn't work. Licht kept hammering away both over and around the Texas block.

"Licht was the difference," Elliott said. "I told my team before that was the one I thought we had to stop and we didn't do a good job of that at all. She had a great night and we weren't able to contain her and she was the difference maker in the match."

Pavan was the difference in a lot of matches during her career too. But Pavan was a different player than Licht. Pavan played all the way around her entire career and was a huge threat attacking from her right back position in the back row.

Licht said she likes a quicker tempo than Pavan, who liked a higher set, but she still learned a lot just watching Pavan during the 2007 season.

"Last year I really took advantage of having Sarah to follow behind," Licht said. "I tried to watch how quick the ball moved and how to read hitters. I thought I had some understanding, but really I had no idea how much faster the college game was.

"I took it as an advantage playing with her, even though mostly I was just sitting and watching."

Licht isn't yet ready to play the full rotation, although she did just that when she had to in the Big 12 opener at Kansas State when sophomores Tara Mueller and Kayla Banwarth were held out of action for disciplinary reasons.

Licht hadn't played in the back row since she was a junior in high school, but she still came way with 12 digs that night while redshirt freshman Brooke Delano, who got the first start of her career that night, had 18 digs.

Licht said she didn't know if the Wildcats were trying to hit at her and Delano because of their lack of back row experience, but she does know that she enjoyed the entire experience.

"I only know that Brooke and I were having so much fun back there," Licht said. "We were right there beside each other. We showed that we can play defense too. It may not look pretty, but we can do it."

Licht would like to play all the way around

"PEOPLE

have to realize I'm not going to be (Sarah Pavan). I have a different style of play. I'm me."

LINDSEY LICHT

at some point in her career. That's one thing she is working toward each and every day. In the end, it will be up to coach John Cook to make that decision.

"Every day we work really hard at that as well as attacking and blocking," Licht said. "I can't make that call. Coach Cook will. He'll know when it's the right time or when he feels he needs to put me back there. I'll keep working hard at it."

Although Licht has shown flashes of the player she can be, she has yet to put it all together night after night. Yes, she hit .500 against Texas, but that was sandwiched between a negative .040 performance at Kansas State and a .143 night against Kansas.

"She had a big match (against Texas), but what I've been telling her for the last year is good players can have great nights," Cook said. "Great players can do it every night. If you look at Lindsey, she hit negative at K-State. She's still not a great player. That's the first thing I told her in practice. You hit for a negative at K-State, you better work on being a great player."

COOK LIKES SCHEDULE

Cook says the Big 12 will once again be looking at changing from a Wednesday/Saturday conference schedule to a Friday/Saturday setup. This could help some schools save money, but Cook said he is against the change.

"I will fight going Friday/Saturday because we're the only conference playing Wednesdays," Cook said. "We're getting TV and getting a lot of exposure. I think you get more competitive matches because everybody has a chance to prepare."

Cook said Oklahoma and Texas Tech

have been the schools wanting a change for financial reasons. He said Texas coach Jerritt Elliott also has supported a Friday/Saturday format.

"Jerritt thinks you can't win a national championship playing Wednesday-Saturday," Cook said. "You have to play back-to-back."

It should be pointed out that Nebraska has won two national championships since the Big 12 has been playing Wednesdays and Saturdays.

TV LIKES HUSKERS

The Huskers have been getting plenty of television exposure and that trend will continue throughout the season.

The Missouri match on Sunday will be the team's seventh television appearance of the season. Other matches to be televised are Baylor (Oct. 15), Texas A&M (Oct. 22), Iowa State (Nov. 1), Missouri (Nov. 12) and at Texas (Nov. 19). **N**

2008 VOLLEYBALL SCHEDULE

Aug. 29-31	Runza/AVCA Showcase
Aug. 29	*Stanford, W, 3-0
Aug. 31	*USC, W, 3-1
Sept. 1	Oral Roberts, W 3-0
Sept. 5-6	Cal Poly Invite
Sept. 5	Tulane, W, 3-0
Sept. 6	Cal Poly, W, 3-0
Sept. 12-13	Ameritas Players Challenge
Sept. 12	LSU, W, 3-0
Sept. 13	New Mexico, W, 3-0
Sept. 17	at Kansas State, W, 3-1
Sept. 20	Texas, W, 3-1
Sept. 24	Kansas, W, 3-1
Sept. 27	at Iowa State, W, 3-1
Oct. 1	at Texas Tech, W, 3-0
Oct. 4	Colorado, 7 p.m.
Oct. 5	*Creighton, 5 p.m.
Oct. 8	Oklahoma, 7 p.m.
Oct. 12	at Missouri, 1 p.m.
Oct. 15	Baylor, 7 p.m.
Oct. 22	Texas A&M, 7 p.m.
Oct. 25	at Oklahoma, 7 p.m.
Oct. 29	at Colorado, 8 p.m.
Nov. 1	Iowa State, 7 p.m.
Nov. 5	at Texas A&M, 6:30 p.m.
Nov. 8	Kansas State, TBA
Nov. 12	Missouri, 7 p.m.
Nov. 15	at Kansas, TBA
Nov. 19	at Texas, 6:30 p.m.
Nov. 22	Texas Tech, 7 p.m.
Nov. 29	at Baylor, 7 p.m.
Dec. 5-6	NCAA 1st/2nd Rounds, TBA
Dec. 12-13	*NCAA Regionals
Dec. 18-20	*NCAA Semifinals, Finals
	* at Qwest Center, Omaha

Men's Basketball

CHRIS BALHAM

BY BRIAN ROSENTHAL

Balham brings heart, intensity to Huskers

Time will tell just how much an off-season surgery has helped Chris Balham's problematic left knee.

For now, Balham, a 6-8, 235-pound forward on the Nebraska men's basketball team, is very thankful for one significant change. He's not yet seen that long, ominous needle. It was used periodically last season to drain Balham's knee when it would balloon to the size of a grapefruit.

"I hope I never have to do that again," said Balham, who already had a phobia of needles. "It's the worst feeling."

So far, so good.

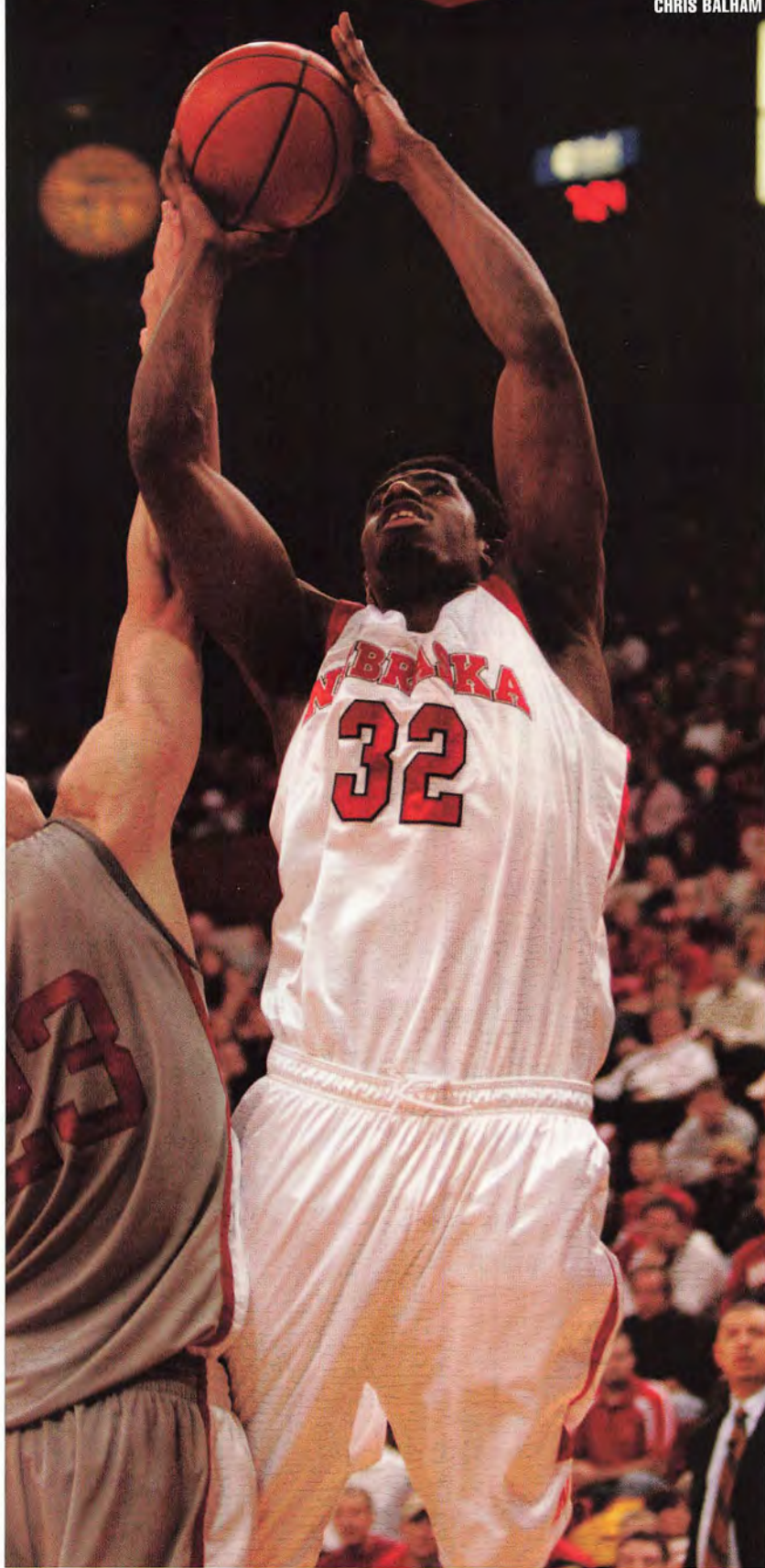
Balham, who had the back of his knee cap shaved during a surgical procedure in March, said he's been doing all of the same off-season activities as his Husker teammates.

"Playing a lot of pick-up, running stairs," Balham said. "Just working out, basically."

Balham, a junior from Kansas City, Kan., said his knee is "holding up" thus far. Whether it holds up throughout the season, of course, remains to be seen.

This much is certain, though: Coach Doc Sadler's size-challenged Huskers could use Balham's size and athleticism in the post.

Nebraska is replacing departed senior Aleks Maric, and two of the candidates to fill his role,





Alex Chapman and Alonzo Edwards, are redshirts who haven't played.

"Since I'm like one of the oldest players this year, I can give them leadership," Balham said, "especially since I'm one of the only post men. I can just tell them what to expect, and whatnot."

Chapman, at 6-9, is the tallest eligible player on the 2008-09 roster.

"We're not too big this year, as you can tell," Balham said. "Rebounding is going to be a big thing for us. If we can get a lot of rebounds, we're going to be good."

Rebounding, it just so happens, is one of Balham's strengths, although his statistics won't show it – he played only 7.9 minutes a game last season, with an average of 1.5 rebounds.

Balham has provided Sadler with key stretches off the bench. Those stretches haven't been long, however, mostly because of Balham's bum knee. He had surgery in March after his redshirted freshman season, too.

"I've had enough discussions with the doctors to know there's not much there," Sadler said. "He is one tough dude."

What impressed Sadler last season was Balham's ability to pick up offensive and defensive sets despite the lack of repetitions in practices. Seldom last season did Balham practice more than 5 or 10 minutes before

needing to sit out because of his knee.

How much can Balham practice and play this season?

"I don't know. I think Doc is going to be the one deciding on that," Balham said. "I can go as long as he puts me in there. It doesn't matter. My knee can just buckle up out there. I don't care. I'm still going to do my best. Whatever minutes I get, I'm going to make the best of them, and just not worry."

What Balham lacks in longevity, he said, he'll make up for with heart, intensity and courage.

And rebounding. Don't forget rebounding, he said.

Balham is also good for an electric dunk or two. He's not certain of his official vertical jump but said he can touch above the square on the backboard, and on a good day, can reach within a few inches of the top of the backboard.

For some, that may seem inexplicable, given Balham's knee problems. They date to his freshman season, when Balham remembers his knee beginning to swell for no apparent reason.

Balham also returned from a scary, bizarre episode in October of 2006 when he lost feeling in his legs and collapsed during a practice. Balham still isn't certain of the cause, but he's not had problems since.

Through it all, Balham has pushed through, having not lost any of his leaping ability.

"It's God-given ability," Balham said. "For some reason, the more my knee hurts, the higher I jump. It's really weird."

HOOPS NOTES

True freshman **CHRISTOPHER NIEMANN** may not be eligible to play this season, but the 6-11 center has made a favorable impression during pre-season workouts.

Most surprising to Nebraska players is Niemann's size. He weighs 265 pounds, and he doesn't resemble the slender boy teammates remember seeing the last time Niemann, a native of Germany, visited Lincoln.

"He's big. He's hard to guard," Chris Balham said. "He can run the floor pretty good for how big he is. He's got moves and everything. He just needs to get used to the flow and get used to Doc and all."

Niemann loses this year of eligibility because of his participation on a German club team that paid some of his teammates. He'll be a sophomore in 2009-10 with three years of eligibility remaining.

DOC SADLER will hold his third annual coaches clinic on Oct. 18 at the Bob Devaney Sports Center. It's free to basketball coaches around the region and features former Texas Tech coach James Dickey as a guest speaker.

Coaches attending the clinic will be able to watch Nebraska practice at 9 a.m. and can join in a question-and-answer session with Sadler and his assistant coaches at noon. Dickey will follow with his presentation. Sadler was an assistant on Dickey's staff from 1991 to 1994.

Nebraska will hold its second annual **BASKETBALL 101 CLINIC** at the Bob Devaney Sports center on Oct. 29 from 7-8:30 p.m. The clinic is free, and is open to men and women of all ages and basketball knowledge.

Sadler and his assistant coaches will offer on-court demonstrations, a presentation of plays the Huskers use in games and explanations of terminology integral to coordinated team play. **N**

FROM THE ARCHIVES

COTTON BOWL WOES — Sophomore Harry Wilson (31) scores a touchdown from 1 yard out after taking a handoff from quarterback Bob Churchich (15) with 7:45 remaining in the second quarter of Nebraska's 10-7 loss against Arkansas in the 1965 Cotton Bowl game. Backs Bob Hohn (18) and Kent McCloughan (32) lead the way, as the line clears a path. Linemen pictured include: center Lyle Sittler (52), right guard Ron Griesse (65) and left guard John Dervin (66), as well as right tackle Dennis Carlson (78) and right end Tony Jeter (84). The Arkansas middle guard with a shot at tackling Wilson is Jimmy Johnson (60) — yes, that Jimmy Johnson. Another of the Razorbacks was Dallas Cowboys owner Jerry Jones, a starting offensive guard. Nebraska went into the game with a 9-1 record and ranked No. 6 by the Associated Press, following a 17-7 loss at Oklahoma in the final regular-season game. It had been No. 4. The Cornhuskers ranked sixth nationally in total offense (348.5 yards) and rushing offense (226.5) and seventh in scoring (24.9 points) but couldn't get untracked against Southwest Conference champion Arkansas. Nebraska managed only 100 yards rushing, 84 by Wilson, and 68 yards passing. Junior tailback Bobby Burnett scored the winning touchdown on a 4-yard run with 4:41 remaining. The Razorbacks of Coach Frank Broyles went into the game with a 10-0 record and ranked No. 2. Although No. 1 Alabama lost to Texas 21-17 in the Orange Bowl game, there were no post-bowl rankings.



PHOTO COURTESY OF UNL ARCHIVES

BOB DEVANEY'S FIRST SEASON

Game 6, Oct. 27, 1962 at Folsom Field

Nebraska 31, Colorado 6

Nebraska	0	0	23	8	—	31
Colorado	0	6	0	0	—	6

(C) Bill Symons 1 run (kick failed)
 (N) Rudy Johnson 28 run (John Faiman kick)
 (N) Dennis Claridge 31 run (kick failed)
 (N) Larry Tomlinson tackles Frank Cesarek, safety
 (N) Bill Comstock 11 pass Claridge (Dick Callahan pass Faiman)
 (N) Gene Young 2 run (Tomlinson pass Doug Tucker)
Attendance: 34,183



Colorado was the defending Big Eight champion, but the 1-4 Buffaloes had a new coach in Bud Davis and were already showing the effects of conference and NCAA sanctions for recruiting violations under former coach Sonny Grandelius. Even so, Nebraska hadn't won in Boulder since 1954, and at halftime, it appeared the streak might continue. The Cornhuskers converted a fumble recovery by end Jim Hoge into a touchdown with 10:31 remaining in the third quarter to take the lead. Nebraska finished with 455 yards of offense, including 365 rushing. With 52 seconds remaining, some Cornhusker fans charged onto the field and with help from Colorado fans pulled down the south goal posts.

DEVANEY: "I don't think we were looking ahead. We have to play our best to beat anybody. We just play each week. No one is ever going to be easy. We do it the hard way, but they all count."

DID YOU KNOW? With Halloween just four days away, Billboard's No. 1 song (for a second week) was Monster Mash by Bobby "Boris" Pickett and the Crypt-Kickers. Ruben "Hurricane" Carter made his television debut, knocking out middleweight contender Florentino Fernandez at Madison Square Garden in 1:09 of the first round.

TOM OSBORNE'S FIRST SEASON

Game 6, Oct. 20, 1973 at Memorial Stadium

Nebraska 10, Kansas 9

Kansas	0	3	6	0	—	9
Nebraska	7	0	0	3	—	10

(N) Tony Davis 2 run (Rich Sanger kick)
 (K) Bob Swift 26 field goal
 (K) Delvin Williams 4 run (kick blocked)
 (N) Sanger 28 field goal
Attendance: 76,498



Nebraska left the field at halftime to booing from some in the third-largest crowd in school history, despite holding a 7-3 lead against a 4-1 Kansas team. An anticipated battle involving the passing of Cornhusker quarterback David Humm and Kansas quarterback David Jaynes didn't happen. Nebraska's defense, led by middle guard John Bell, end Bob Martin and tackle John Dutton, harassed Jaynes, who completed only 10-of-32 passes for 90 yards with one interception — by linebacker Bob Nelson to set up the winning field goal with 12:28 remaining. Nelson picked off the pass at the Jayhawk 29-yard line and returned the ball to the 16. Humm completed 4-of-7 passes for 54 yards, and the Cornhuskers managed only 160 yards rushing. Cornerback Ardell Johnson's block of a Jayhawk extra-point kick proved to be the difference.

OSBORNE: "They (fans) have the right to boo. We apparently have lost some fans in the past week, but I guess if they want to boo, that's their privilege. But I've never heard a Nebraska team booed before."

DID YOU KNOW? Memorial Stadium was dedicated 50 years before. Kansas was the dedication-game opponent, and the teams played a scoreless tie. Ed Weir played in that game, as a sophomore. The two-time All-America lineman was in attendance at the 1973 game, which also was Homecoming.

CROSSW &TRIVIA

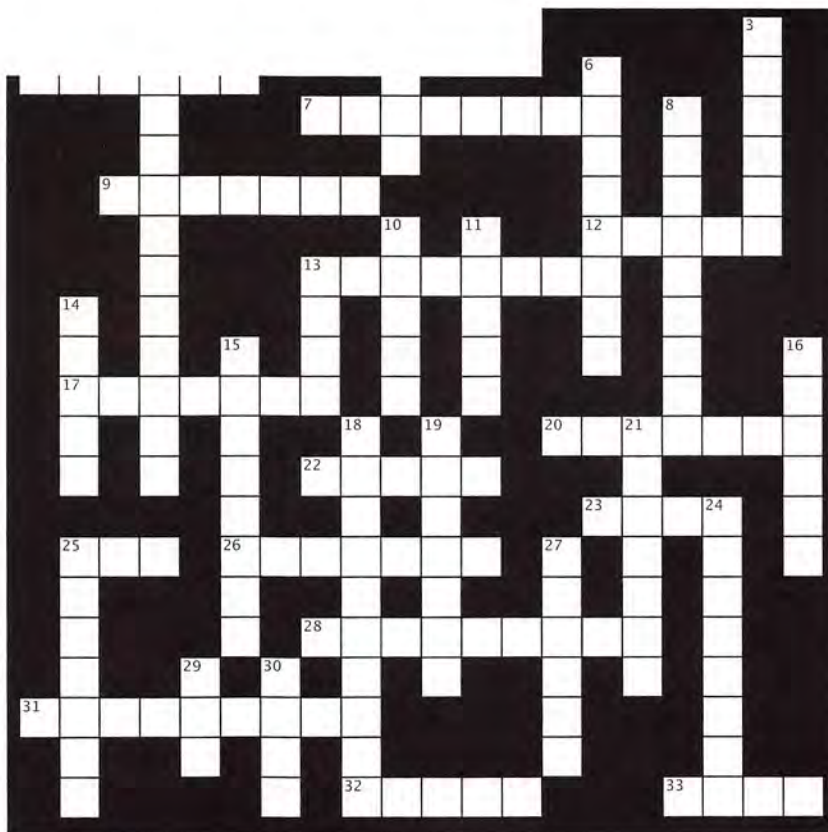
ACROSS

1. Alex Henery's hometown
4. Head football strength c
7. Where Bo Pelini coached in 2004
9. Recruiting coordinator
12. Current assistant who coached under Osborne
13. Ex-Husker and Kansas City linebacker
17. Wears No. 2 (defense)
20. Ex-Husker and Philadelphia linebacker
22. Texas Tech head coach
23. Wears No. 2 (offense)
25. Wears No. 3 (offense)
26. Texas Tech color
28. Wears No. 11
31. Oct. 18 opponent
32. Wide receiver from Minnesota
33. Assistant formerly at Kansas

DOWN

2. Leading rusher vs. Virginia Tech
3. Assistant formerly at Iowa State
5. 1983 Outland Trophy winner
6. 1971 Outland Trophy winner
8. Stadium for 2008 Big 12 Championship game
10. Leading tackler vs. Virginia Tech
11. Number of home games in 2008
13. Wears No. 5 (defense)
14. Wears No. 5 (offense)
15. Scored NU's last touchdown vs. Virginia Tech
16. Oct. 25 opponent
18. Texas Tech nickname
19. Scored NU's first touchdown vs. Virginia Tech
21. Eric Hagg's home state
24. Wears No. 3 (defense)
25. Texas Tech campus location
27. Defensive line coach
29. Network for NU-Texas Tech telecast
30. True freshman special teams player

Answers will appear in Oct. 18 issue



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OCTOBER 4 CROSSWORD SOLUTION





THE FINAL WORD

BY MIKE BABCOCK

Pelini not a good loser

THE WORDS ARE VINCE LOMBARDI'S:

"Show me a good loser, and I'll show you a loser."

Bo Pelini is not a good loser. No way, no how.

We were reminded of that following Nebraska's 52-17 loss against Missouri. "I've never quit anything in my life," he said. "I'm a fighter. We're going to come out fighting now. I think we have character in our locker room. We have to get better as a football team."

"And that's the only way I know how to go about it."

The question was: How would the Cornhuskers bounce back from their worst loss at Memorial Stadium since 1949? "Go back to work," he said.

Pelini's post-game interview lasted just under 5 minutes, about half as long as after the first four games. There wasn't much to say. The loss defied explanation or excuse.

"Missouri was better than us tonight," he said. "I'll tell you what I just told the team. I apologized to the team. I don't point the finger; I point the thumb. It all starts with me. We got out-coached tonight. We weren't well enough prepared. We got beat. And we got beat soundly. I'm the head of this ship, and I take full responsibility for it."

"I've got to do a better job. Our staff needs to do a better job to give this team a better opportunity to win. We're making too many mistakes, and that's coaching. Once again, it's my fault. If you want to point a finger at somebody, point it at me because

I'm not getting the job done. That's about all that needs to be said. We got beat. We got beat soundly."

In just about every phase of the game ...

If the Cornhuskers were to have a chance against Missouri, with its high-octane offense, they would have to pressure quarterback Chase Daniel. They did not.

They had no sacks. And they had no interceptions.

"We wanted to get pressure on them and started to do that early, started to get some hits on the guy. But I thought we needed to make some things happen," said Pelini. "We didn't execute. We had some busts. Our guys weren't well enough prepared to execute the plan, and the plan we laid out wasn't good enough. Once again, that's my responsibility."

"And it won't happen again."

The Cornhuskers forced no fumbles and continued to make the kind of mistakes that plagued them in a 35-30 loss against Virginia Tech the previous week.

Nebraska was penalized 14 times for 101 yards. Missouri was penalized once, and not until 6:04 remained in the third quarter, with the score 38-10. Linebacker Brock Christopher was flagged for a personal foul. He grabbed his helmet in disbelief.

If the Cornhuskers were to have a chance against Missouri, they would have to run the ball, keep the Tigers' offense off the field. They did not.

They rushed for a net of 79 yards, only 7 in the first half.

But their inability to establish the

run wasn't the problem, according to quarterback Joe Ganz. "It doesn't matter," he said. "If we can't run it, we should be able to throw it. We just didn't have enough ... we just didn't do enough offensively."

Ganz shouldered responsibility for the loss. "That pick for a touchdown was kind of a turning point. I just feel like I let all the guys down," he said. "It's hard."

Christopher returned the interception 17 yards for a touchdown to make the score 31-7 with 2:59 remaining in the first half. The Tigers were in control by then.

Ganz struggled to contain his emotions. "I don't agree with him (Pelini) at all," said Ganz. "It was all us. So I don't agree. He's not out there playing. It's us."

"We had control of the game. We played terrible."

How was he taking the loss?

He responded rhetorically: "How would you take it?"

No one took it harder than Pelini. That much was certain.

Even the questions lacked imagination. Was he embarrassed by the loss?

"I'm not used to losing. I'm not used to getting beat soundly," he said. "Once again, it's my fault. Yes, damn right, yes, I'm embarrassed."

"I apologize to the team. I apologize to the state of Nebraska. I apologize to everybody associated with the University of Nebraska football, and it's my responsibility. I was hired to do a job and I didn't do that job tonight. Anything else need to be said?" **N**

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